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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposal to legalize the use of marijuana in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



Too Scared

Elizabeth Smart was so terrified of her abductor that she told police she was someone else.

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Reaching Out

President Obama reaches out to the Islamic world from the most Muslim nation on earth.

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Bush Memoir

Former President George W. Bush officially kicks off the release of his new memoir.

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Fitial may sign pot bill if only for medicinal use. PAGE 3
Alien workers stage prayer vigil, launch petition for status. PAGE 5

An early start to flu season—DPH

» From five patients daily, number has doubled
» 18K vaccines available for public

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth appears to be experiencing a surprisingly early start to the flu season, as evidenced by the large spike of people being admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room and other clinics with flu symptoms.



Balachandra

From the usual five or more flu patients being admitted daily to the hospital's ER, the number has doubled, involving patients from across all age brackets, according to Department of Public Health officials yesterday.

Dr. Shirish Balachandra, the newly appointed medical director for DPH, said an initial assessment of the cases appear to show that children are the most susceptible to the current flu wave.

"CHC emergency room and private clinics on Saipan have been witness-

RELATED NEWS

Balachandra lists non-communicable diseases as top priorities. **PAGE 5**

ing an alarming number of adults, elderly, and children with prolonged high fevers, headache, body ache, and persistent dry cough—all of which

are hallmark symptoms of the flu," said Balachandra during yesterday's news briefing.

The department is most worried, he said, for the "youngest and oldest" patients because they are more vulnerable to complications from flu and developing

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A new casino bill pre-filed but this time from Stanley

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two months after the Senate junked House Speaker Froilan Tenorio's Saipan casino bill, a new casino legislation has been pre-filed, this time with Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) as the author.

Torres' House Bill 17-130 authorizes gambling enterprises not only

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Torres

Bridge Capital donates \$50,825 to 18 groups

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC gave early Christmas presents with a donation this year of \$50,825 to 18 organizations, 13 of them receiving the checks and a van yesterday in the presence of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Capital Hill.

John K. Baldwin, principal and chief executive offi-

See BRIDGE on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bridge Capital LLC chief executive officer John K. Baldwin hands the key to a van to Karidat Social Services' Lauri Ogumoro, as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, and other Karidat board members and supporters look on during Bridge Capital's donation of \$38,700, including a van, to 13 organizations yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill. This brings to \$50,825 Bridge Capital's total donations to 18 entities this year.

'No evidence that Villagomez jury selection was open to public'

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal judge has noted that there was no credible evidence that members of

the public were allowed inside the courtroom during jury selection in the trial of former lieutenant governor Timothy Villagomez and couple James and Joaquina Santos.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett placed under advisement, however, the evidentiary hearing that seeks to determine whether or not then federal judge Alex R. Mun-

son directed the public to be excluded from the jury selection.

This developed as both the U.S. government and the defense counsels com-

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Aia, Babauta, Somol are Tanapag school's top employees

Aia



Babauta



Somol

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tanapag Elementary School has named three gentle-

men as outstanding employees of the year, all of whom are eligible in the Public School System's annual search for top education awardees.

Jason M. Aia was adjudged as the school's teacher of the year for his dedication and commitment to his profession. As soon as he graduated from Northern Marianas College in 2003, Aia joined the Tataga family as an upper grade teacher. He even opted to live in Tanapag so he could be closer to his Tataga family. In his seven years of service, Aia prefers teaching fourth graders, saying it is not as test-ridden compared to lower grade students.

Besides being a pastor for the United Church of Christ Pohnapean Society, Aia was also described by his colleagues as a talented musician and singer. In fact, he lends this talent during school assemblies and programs.

Hailed as the school's teacher aide of the year is Florencio Q. Babauta, who joined PSS in 1994 as a physical education instructor in San Vicente Elementary School. In 1996, he joined Tanapag Elementary School as its PE instructor until he became a certified instructor for the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies in 2000. He said he enjoys coming to school to be with students and help build up the local culture.

Because of his local knowledge, Babauta is known to make home visits and help keep kids in line. He likes being both a PE and native language instructor and lends his expertise in coaching after-school sports and bilingual teams.

Named support staff of the year is Juan L. Somol, the

school's maintenance worker. He is described by his colleagues as a jack-of-all-trades for his multiple talents and abilities. He joined Tanapag Elementary School in 1991 and has been dedicated to providing a safe environment for the students, staff, parents, and co-workers. Aside from keeping the campus safe and orderly, Somol is also entrusted with collecting the morning's attendance, delivering various classroom needs, doing school errands, supervising students in the morning and in the afternoon, and helping out with various school and community activities. Despite his stern demeanor behind the shades, his positive attitude makes it easy for everyone to get along with him.

Since its establishment in 1968, Tanapag Elementary School has been the community center of Tanapag. Under Theresa I. Taitano, the first principal, the school promised to strive for "excellence now." Her successors—Andrea Tenorio, Antonio Santos, Joe Aldan, Tom Pangelinan, Gonzalo Santos, Tom Tebuteb, Martha Haberman, Linda Lizama, George Haberman, Jesus Elameto, and the current principal Francisca Ulloa—have all worked hard to maintain this promise.

The school campus is composed of 13 buildings. Statistically, Ulloa remembers that the student enrollment went up as high as 500 students in the early '90s. With the opening of Kagman Elementary School in 2001, enrollment decreased to about 218. The school has been through many changes, but the staff's dedication in educating the community's youth and adults hasn't faltered.

9 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the beaches at the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, south Puerto Rico Dump, Micro Beach, Hyatt Regency, Garapan Fishing Dock, Saipan Grand, and Chalan Kanoa District 4 drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on the Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

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Fitial may sign pot bill if only for medicinal use

» Senate poised to kill pot bill soon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial may sign into law a marijuana bill should it come to his table, but only if the intent is to legalize it only for medicinal use. Just the same, the

governor is not optimistic that the bill will pass the Senate. And the governor's right—the Senate is poised to defeat it next week.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate will disapprove the marijuana legalization bill in

its session next week.

"It's for the same reasons I mentioned before," he told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to concerns about marijuana use's impact on CNMI youth and other ill effects on the community.

Senators also echoed agencies' concerns that the CNMI

will lose millions in federal dollars if the local government approves the legislation, which is authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan). The Department of Public Health alone said it may lose \$10 million should this bill pass.

Fitial said yesterday he sup-

ports marijuana use for medicinal purposes only.

Torres' House Bill 17-45, however, proposes to legalize marijuana not only for medicinal but also for recreational and other uses.

"I support it for medicinal use," Fitial told reporters. "I

never smoke marijuana myself so I cannot talk much about it because I don't have the experience."

The bill passed the House on a 10-7 vote with one abstention. It is now with the Senate.

Torres' bill seeks to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana use for medicinal and other purposes in the CNMI, adding to a list of revenue-generating bills pending in the 17th Legislature.

CNMI's plan to borrow \$25M for Rota harbor needs OIA nod

» Local government proposes future CIP money for repayment

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The government's proposal to borrow \$25 million from a private bank to repair Rota harbor will need the approval of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs because the Commonwealth wants to use future capital improvement project funding allocated to Rota for repayment of such loan.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that he also brought up the proposal with Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta when he was here on Tuesday for the forum on economic and labor development.

When asked when the borrowing will be made, Fitial said, "As soon as Tony Babauta gives us the green light to use section 702 money that is specifically earmarked for Rota on an annual basis to be used for repayment."

Babauta only approved on Tuesday the redirection of \$400,000 in OIA funding from the Tinian Instrument Landing System project to the Tinian harbor, as Fitial proposed in August.

"The Tinian harbor is more

critical than the ILS," Fitial said.

As for the Rota harbor, the governor said he will also look into it that this facility will receive the help it needs.

"They're waiting for the Interior attorney to complete the research because this is a loan guarantee by the federal government so Rota is using their annual allocation from the CIP funds for repayment of this loan. In the event that these 702 funds are terminated...then whichever federal agency that guarantees that loan will be responsible to pay out the loan," Fitial said, referring to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola asked the governor early this year to support the proposal to borrow from the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank up to \$25 million to improve and expand the Rota seaport.

He said the loan would be repaid from future revenue activity of the port and future funding from Section 702 of the Covenant funding.

The governor said Babauta told him this proposal will have to undergo legal review, among other things.

The CNMI receives some \$10 million to \$12 million in annual Section 702 funding from the federal government.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said of this amount given to the CNMI, only about an eighth is given to Rota annually.

"This is a unique approach. It will allow future 702 money

as loan payment and collateral," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial said while the CIP money for Rota is "very small," it would be "sufficient to address the installment, the monthly payment."

Manglona said the Rota Legislative Delegation supports the mayor and the gover-

nor's proposal.

"The Rota mayor and other leaders are concerned about the capability of big ships and vessels to come into the Rota harbor for the island's economic development," he said.

The mayor brought up the idea at the height of the food shortage on Rota early this year because Saipan Shipping Co. Inc.'s only available vessel

could not enter the island's port due to rough waters since before Christmas last year.

He said improving the seaport facility will "enable cargo vessels to service Rota on a regular basis." The mayor said cargo vessels could not provide service to Rota even during normal weather conditions due to the design of the existing port facility.



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Zoning office tags 92 junk cars

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Through its Junk Car Removal Program, the Saipan Zoning Office was able to tag a total of 92 junk cars as of Nov. 9.

The program, which was initiated by the Zoning Office in April, was implemented with the purpose of getting rid of junk cars that have become eyesores on the island.

The program is a collaboration between the Saipan Zoning Office, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and recycling companies Basula Producto and Saipan Triple Star.

DPW official in extortion case asks court to appoint investigator

Department of Public Works building code inspector Thomas Sablan Salas, who was indicted on charges of allegedly extorting money from a businessman, asked the federal court yesterday to appoint an investigator so he could effectively prepare for his defense.

Salas, through his counsel, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to authorize fees up to \$500 to pay for the needed investigating services.

Salas said that, according to the U.S. government's discovery provided him, the government allegedly used a confidential informant to set him up and

Of the 92 junk cars, Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt said that 32 have been voluntarily removed by their owners, 14 by Ericco Enterprises, 12 by Saipan Triple Star Recycling, 12 by the Mayor's Office, and 17 remain to be picked up by the owners.

Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune* that the junk cars were tagged with notices for its owners to either personally remove their junk cars or notify the Zoning Office to handle their junk cars for them.

"The Zoning Office started out doing some good work for the junk car program. Right now, it's going smoothly," he said.

Wyatt disclosed, though, that the

persuade him to take bribes.

Salas said he needs an investigator to search local police records and question witnesses in the investigation against him and alleged pending criminal charges.

The indictment charged the 42-year-old Salas with one count of extortion under color of official right. He pleaded not guilty.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Salas last Sept. 17 after he allegedly extorted a total of \$200 cash from a printing press owner in exchange for not imposing alleged building code violation fines. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

failure and others; health care personnel; those who care for the very young, very old and/or the very sick; pregnant women; and individuals who are morbidly obese.

According to Jeremy Sasamoto, immunization program manager, the department has received over 18,000 doses of the new seasonal flu vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and these will be distributed for free to the community. As of yesterday, about 16,000 doses remain to be administered.

Another shipment of about 8,030 is expected within the end of this month. When asked if there are enough vaccines to cover the intended recipients, public health and hospital program director Warren Villagomez said that CDC has assured them that when they need additional vaccines these will be readily available for shipment.

John Tagabuel, deputy secretary for public health administration, said that vaccines have been distributed to eight clinics: the immunization clinic at CHC; the children's clinic at CHC; Pacific Medical Center; Medical Associates of the Pacific; Marianas Medical Center; Saipan Health Clinic; Tinian Health Center; and Rota Health Center.

'Four ER doctors'

Balachandra said there are four physicians and one physician assistant providing treatment at the hospital's emergency room in a 24-hour period. He said this is enough to accommodate the increased volume of patients at certain hours.

Besides the ER, private clinics are also generally well-prepared and capacity has not been an issue so far.

On Monday, Roxanne Diaz, special assistant to the DPH secretary, said that the department will also be rolling out a flu vaccination campaign targeting schoolchildren at Head Start centers. They are also planning to mobilize the campaign in public schools. She reminded the public to continue practicing the Flu Watch steps to protect from the flu virus.

program has slowed down to some extent because one of the boom trucks of Saipan Triple Star Recycling is not running while Ericco En-

terprises is occupied with running its private business.

He said the two recycling companies remove junk cars for free based on their

CASINO

From Page 1

on Saipan but also on Rota and Tinian, where voters had already approved casino operations years back.

He said casino proponents brought up the idea of having such legislation introduced by a House member other than Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who has been at odds with senators on a host of issues, including that of the Legislative Bureau director.

Torres hopes the senators may consider his bill. He said the speaker's personality or his being "antagonist" may be the only thing stopping senators from approving the previous casino bill.

"He's pissing off senators. He has to change his attitude," Torres said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), when asked for comment, said the Senate made its position clear on the casino bill.

"It will have to go through popular initiative," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

cer of Bridge Capital, along with Fital, presented a total of \$38,700 check yesterday, while \$12,700 was given early this year to five other groups.

Bridge Capital is an international investment banking and asset management company headquartered on Saipan.

The recipients of Bridge Capital's donations yesterday were: the First Lady Foundation, the Ben Fital Foundation, the Santa Soledad Mission Parish in Kagman, the San Jose Church, American Red Cross, Dolphin Chapter of the National Honor Society, Friends of the Arts, Beautify CNMI, NMI Council for Humanities, Crime Stoppers, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and Pet Assistance and Welfare Services (PAWS).

Karidat Social Services, for its part, got a van from Bridge Capital.

"God must have heard our prayers. ... This is a wonderful blessing," Karidat's Lauri Ogumoro said as Baldwin presented the van's key to the organization. Ogumoro said Karidat's vans are old.

CrimeStoppers' Jason Tarkong, for his part, said CrimeStoppers will put the donated amount to good use.

The Friends of the Arts presented Baldwin with season tickets and a life-

time membership.

Baldwin said giving money is always more difficult than anyone thinks because the company has to select groups or organizations that are in need, and there are many of them.

He said he and Bridge Capital and its employees appreciate the opportunity to be able to give back to the community.

"Our company is very blessed. We work very hard. We make a good living on the things we do and it's good to give back. I think by giving you actually get and I think it's important for everybody who can to give, and I believe that and I live that," he told reporters after the donation.

Early this year, Bridge Capital donated to Boy Scouts of America-Aloha Council, CNMI Bar Association for the Attorney General's Cup speech competition, Independents Futbol Club, Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for its trip, and Xclusive Golf Association for the 20th Police Training Academy.

Special Christmas project

Baldwin asked recipients gathered in the governor's conference room for ideas on how Bridge Capital can help CNMI entities this Christmas season.

"If you have any ideas in this regard, let us know. ... This is separate from other projects we do," he said.

Baldwin also announced that next

came available as prospective jurors were excused, members of the public were allowed to enter the courtroom," he said.

O'Malley said the issue at hand is whether there was a policy of excluding the public from the jury selection and the jury trial itself.

Villagomez's lawyer, Leilani Lujan, said the result of the policy is the same: Members of the public were excluded from the courtroom during jury selection.

Lujan said all legal issues are for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to decide and that the hearing was intended to just settle the record.

A finding in favor of Villagomez and the Santos could bolster the defendants' appeal that is pending before the

time availability.

Wyatt said they are looking for other methods and approaches to continue their junk car removal program.

deposited into the Commonwealth Treasury, and subject for general appropriations by the Legislature.

Minimum \$100M investment

Torres' bill states that a casino license will be issued only in connection with a new investment on Saipan of "not less than \$100 million for the casino establishment and related facility and provided that a \$50 million mini-casino facility is also developed on Rota and Tinian each."

The bill also requires a casino licensee to provide for investment and operation of a passenger/auto casino ferry services within the CNMI and Guam.

Under the bill, a Commonwealth Casino Commission will consist of three members from Saipan, and one member each from Rota and Tinian.

Each commissioner will be paid \$50,000 a year.

The commission may allow casino operation on land or afloat on Commonwealth waters, including any lagoon, bay, harbor, pier or other marine location.

year, Bridge Capital will donate \$2,500 each to all public and private high schools' honor societies.

Last year, Bridge Capital donated a total of almost \$60,000 to different schools and organizations.

Bridge Capital specializes in high-yield distressed debt acquisition and structuring, equity and debt placement, investment management and real estate secured lending. It also provides management and consulting services to companies involved in commercial and residential real estate, land development, banking and loan origination, the company's website says.

Corn production, other projects

While Bridge Capital's headquarters on Saipan has less than 20 employees, it manages much larger companies in different countries, including the U.S., Canada, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Macau, the Philippines and the CNMI.

More recently, Bridge Capital has invested in corn production in Cambodia. Later, the company will also go into rice growing, also in Cambodia.

Baldwin said Bridge Capital worked with a Japanese farmers' cooperative to grow corn.

"I believe the world is going to need more and more food. Food production is shrinking. And so we had the opportunity to go into the farm cooperative and get involved in farming..." he said.

Ninth Circuit, and this could ultimately reverse their convictions.

Villagomez and the Santos were found guilty in April last year of conspiring to bloat the prices and requisition of the descaling agent Rydlyme for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. They were indicted on wire fraud, theft of federal funds, conspiracy, and bribery charges.

Villagomez was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison. James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos got six months each. They are now serving their sentences in federal prison. They appealed to reverse many of the court's orders.

The case came to be called the Rydlyme scandal, the biggest one yet in CNMI history.

FLU

From Page 1

serious diseases.

Balachandra stressed that getting vaccinated is the single best way to protect against the flu and is an important step in minimizing the risk and severity of flu infection.

Early start

Seeing a high number of flu patients in late October and early November is a sign of an early start to the flu season, said Balachandra.

"October or early November is an early time of the year to see a pronounced increase in infections and illness. This is not only from our ER but in clinics as well so we're beginning our [flu] campaign very aggressively," he said.

The flu season usually begins in late November and early December.

Balachandra assured, though, that what is "alarming" is the number of cases—not the severity of the illness. As of yesterday, there has been no major complication from the flu, he said.

He advised individuals with fever and cough to stay home from school or work, adding that fever can be treated with standard over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen or ibuprofen, drinking plenty of fluids, and plenty of rest.

"The flu illness will resolve with time and you do not need to go to the doctor's office or the ER unless you fall into one of the high-priority groups or are having difficulty breathing and/or can't keep fluids down," he explained.

High priority groups

There are certain groups of individuals, however, who have an increased risk of developing complications from the flu and are therefore are considered "high priority" for getting vaccinated.

They include children between the ages of 6 months and 4 years old; adults over 50; those suffering from chronic diseases such as people on dialysis, with asthma, diabetes, heart

VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

pleted calling in their witnesses and presenting their arguments.

"For me, there's no credible evidence that anybody from the public was even in the courtroom in the jury selection. I'm very confident that's my factual findings," Bennett said.

The judge said he is only going to decide on facts, not on the legal issue. He said it is up to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to make the legal decision.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley argued that there was no closure but that initially no seats were available. "At some point, as seats be-

Alien workers stage prayer vigil, launch petition for status

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Some alien workers and their children held a prayer vigil Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park's amphitheater in time for U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta's arrival on Saipan to host a forum on economic and labor development.

The workers also launched at the prayer rally an online petition that seeks President Obama's help in extending protection to foreign workers in the CNMI. The petition can be viewed at unheardnomore.blogspot.com

The workers, estimated at over 200, offered prayers during the program that kicked off at 6:30pm. They dispersed at 8pm.

United Workers Movement-CNMI president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* that they have already gathered 600 petition signatures on Saipan, over 100 on Tinian, and 100 more on Rota. Syed said that 564 signed the online petition.

Syed said the signature campaign asks Obama to use his authority to give long-term alien workers in the CNMI improved

immigration status until Congress takes action on the U.S. Department of the Interior's report.

The DOI's report, which Babauta presented to the Fitial administration in April, recommended improved immigration status to foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least five years.

Syed said they are asking Obama to allow the workers to

work in any part of the U.S. He said the idea is for the CNMI's alien workers help in the military buildup in Guam, where over 6,000 workers are needed. He said the Guam workforce is not enough for this much number of needed workers.

"We are in the U.S. system. The workers here are knowledgeable of the U.S. standard work ethics," he said.

Syed said that they have learned of a memo from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Alejandro N. Mayorkas, which outlines administrative relief options that could be exercised in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform legislation "in order to promote family unity, foster economic growth, and remove the threat of removal for certain individuals and groups present in the U.S. without authorization."

Syed said they are asking Obama to exercise his authority and use these options.

Balachandra lists non-communicable diseases as top priorities

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Newly appointed medical director Dr. Shirish Balachandra, introduced in a press briefing yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Center, said that among his priorities is quelling the high rate of non-communicable diseases in the CNMI.

These diseases that continue to climb at an alarming rate include diabetes, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, gout, arthritis, and depression.

As the new medical director, Balachandra emphasized the need to sit down with health officials to help identify areas that need the most attention

and priority.

Roxanne Diaz, special assistant to the DPH secretary, said they are confident that Balachandra's expertise will help DPH solve the epidemic of non-communicable diseases on the islands.

Early this year, the Pacific Island Health Officers Association declared a regional state of health emergency due to the epidemic of non-communicable diseases in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands.

DPH has found that from 1993-2005, the oral cancer rate among Chamorros on island increased by 27.9 percent. Among Carolinians, the rate was at 43.1 percent. The

increased rate is blamed on tobacco chewing. For other Pacific islands, the increase in oral cancer rate was 35.2 percent in the last 10 years.

Balachandra replaced former medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom on Oct. 25 after the

latter relocated to Hawaii.

Balachandra has been working at CHC as an emergency doctor for more than two years prior to his appointment as medical director. Now stationed at the TB and chest clinic, Balachandra said he

still working part-time at the emergency room.


Born in Illinois and raised in Los Angeles, California, Balachandra has also lived in India, Honduras, France, and Cameroon, where he worked as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, serving Somali and Liberian refugees in the area.

Balachandra studied molecular biology and French literature at the University of California Berkeley and went to medical school at McGill University in Montréal, Canada. In May 2008, he moved to Saipan with his wife, April, the hospital's nursing director, and their children.

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Holy St. Jude, Apostle & Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke Your special patronage in time of need. To You I have recourse from the depth of my heart & humbly begged great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and most urgent petition. In return, I promise to make Your name known and cause You to be invoked.

Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid, Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted. Thank you St. Jude.



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Board of Education swears in new students' rep

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education swore into office its newest member, Jocelyn Atalig, during a spe-

cial meeting on Rota yesterday that marked her first day as the Commonwealth's new students' representative.

Atalig is the daughter of Joseph and Lynn Atalig of Rota.

She was recommended by her predecessor to the post, Francine Babauta, who left in June.

Atalig will serve on the board for a year as a non-voting member.

Atalig was one of a handful of CNMI students—and the only one from Rota—who attended Stanford University in California in the summer of 2010 to study an advance placement U.S. government course. She said this experience challenged and heightened her knowledge of the government system and the importance of being a leader.

Atalig is a former vice president of her class and is currently the president of the Rota Upward Bound Student program. She has participated in various competitions such as the Junior Mock Trial, Middle School Forensic League, Sengabau Poetry Competition, Academic Challenge Bowl, Junior Statesmen of

America Powerhouse Debates, and the 2010 Attorney Generals' Cup speech competition.

Along with her competitive experiences, she also attended numerous workshops on Saipan such as the Up-Close and youth seminars. Additionally, she has been a member of the student council, the youth advisory panel, Teen Talk, Close-Up, Upward Bound program, Junior Statesmen of America, and the women's youth basketball and volleyball leagues.

In the autobiography she submitted to the board, Atalig said becoming a government and history teacher within the Public School System and later a politician are some of her ambitions.

Hard Rock Saipan joins campaign against global hunger and poverty

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café Saipan has joined the official launch of "Imagine There's No Hunger," a global campaign that helps raise awareness and funding to fight childhood hunger and poverty around the world.

One of the world's most recognized brands, Hard Rock Café Saipan is one of the 133 cafes in countries across the globe known for its collectible fashion and music-related products and live performance venues.

Operations manager Reynaldo Perez said the campaign concept is anchored in John Lennon's 1971 phenomenal hit *Imagine*, which encouraged people to envision a world of peace and free of poverty.

Perez said that on the occasion of what would have been Lennon's 70th birthday, wife Yoko Ono Lennon joins Hard Rock International for the Imagine There's No Hunger global campaign that aims to benefit WhyHunger.

Founded by late musician and activist Harry Chapin and current executive director Bill Ayres, WhyHunger is committed to fighting the source of hunger and poverty by supporting grassroots organizations that bring about self-reliance, economic justice, and equal access to nutritious and affordable food.

It operates to end the suffering of 49 million American and over 1 billion people worldwide who experience hunger.

"Together let's imagine there's no hunger. Imagine a world where all kids have enough food to eat. Imagine a world where the food that children eat is healthy and nutritious. Imagine a world where our youth take pride in growing, harvesting and selling good food. We can make such a world come true together, with hard work, love and conviction," said Lennon's wife in a statement.

As part of the campaign, Imagine items and merchandise will be available at the Hard Rock Café for a limited time only. These include the John Lennon Artist Spotlight T-Shirt, a charity bracelet, and a pin that features John Lennon's portrait and Hard Rock's logo inside a peace sign.

Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that proceeds from the Imagine merchandise sales will be donated directly to WhyHunger grassroots partners such as the Pathfinder Academy in Kenya, the Pattanarak Foundation in Thailand, City of Joy in India, and the MPP in Haiti.

"Each grassroots partner focuses on victims of poverty and helps teach sustainable farming and entrepreneurial skills for the future," he said.

For more information, visit www.hardrock.com or call Perez at 233-ROCK (7625).

United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Bldg. 1312 Capitol Hill P.O. Box 502565
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-7000 Fax: (670) 664-7030

Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org Website: www.cnmicdd.org

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that will hold the third (3rd) Quarterly Meeting on Friday, November 19, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Rota Resort Hotel on Rota.

Agenda

- I. **Preliminary Matters**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes of Special Meeting – Sept. 16, 2010
- II. **Action Items**
 - a. Office Operation Hours – Governor's Directive
 - b. Appointments of Committee Chairpersons
 - c. Amendment of Approved FY 2010 Budget
- III. **Reports:**
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Executive Director
- IV. **Old Business**
 - a. Update of Call-a-Ride RFP
- V. **New Business**
 - a. House Bill 17-43
 - b. Commonwealth Election Enhancement Project
- VI. **Executive Session**
- VII. **Miscellaneous**
- VIII. **Next Meeting – January 2011**
- IX. **Adjournment**

/s/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
Chairman

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This will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Spring 2011 semester (a savings of up to \$75!) The workshop is open to both new and ongoing students. Students who plan to start or continue their enrollment in College during the Spring 2011 semester are strongly encouraged to attend.

Although not required for entry to the workshop, please bring the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:

1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript from high school (at least three official copies)
3. Tax forms: Your OR your parents' signed 2009 1040 form (2009 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2008 and 2009 (For Example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)
5. Voter Certification (to show you voted in the last election – Contact CNMI Election Commission for more information) – SHEFA Requirement

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'Zombie Prom' at PIC this weekend

Zombies are coming! The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands will stage the musical comedy, *Zombie Prom* by Dempsey and Rowe this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Charley's Cabaret, PIC. Show time is 7pm on Friday and Saturday and 3pm matinee on Sunday. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8 adults and \$5 students. (PR)

Kagman High sets 'Freshmen Literacy Night'

Kagman High School is hosting the "Freshmen Literacy Night" in coordination with the Parent Teacher Student Association during the monthly meeting on Tuesday,

Nov. 16, from 5pm to 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Important PTSA, school and freshmen class matters will be discussed. The freshmen class counselor will be available for inquiries as well. Should you have any questions, call Kagman High School at 664-3780. (PR)

Saipan mayor on Marianas Agupa this Saturday

This Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, Marianas Agupa will feature Mayor Donald G. Flores, Mayor of Saipan, from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the ongoing projects by the Office of the Mayor and the establishment of a sister city relationship with Japan

and Korea.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report by former mayor Joseph S. Inos followed by special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

Military training on FDM set

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Force Marianas Guam, is informing the general public that the U.S. military

would be conducting military training on Farallon De Mendenilla on Nov. 16-17, 2010, from 8am to 5pm.

The general locations for this activity will on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. (EMO)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 11, 1999**Almost all govt agencies are Y2K ready**

Almost all government agencies in the CNMI are already Y2K compliant, easing fears that there will be major public service disruption due to failure of computer systems to recognize the year 2000. A Y2K Task Force created by the Office of the Governor has been coordinating efforts in beating the millennium bug that could jeopardize the delivery of basic services in the CNMI. Representatives from the government and the private sector met yesterday in a conference to address the issue of Y2K preparedness in the Northern Marianas.

Delay in Marpi landfill irks Teno

Saying the health of the people is facing greater risks without the immediate closure of the Puerto Rico dump site, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday raised fresh concerns over the delay in the issuance of permit by federal agencies that would pave way for the construction of the proposed landfill in Marpi. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Division has required the CNMI to protect endangered species found in the northern tip of Saipan near where the new dump site will be built -- a process that has stalled the multi-phase project. According to Tenorio, the government needs about 200 hectares of land in Marpi for the mitigation but it has been difficult to get the approval because of the presence of these protected wildlife.

Nov. 11, 2002**CUC team probes govt power, water use**

A task force recently formed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is now looking at all government agencies' water and power use in view of its huge outstanding payable to the utility firm. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said the task force is now working on the metering system of all government agencies. This, she said, is part of CUC's efforts to improve revenues. "We're getting the taskforce together to verify things. The government also asks for metering, not flat rates," she said. CUC board chair Frank Guerrero, in a recent interview, said the CUC task force would evaluate the government's water and power connection systems to ensure they are functioning well.

CHC underserved, recruits more doctors

The CNMI's need for more physicians is not being easily met partly because it is not under the jurisdiction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, unlike Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Department of Public Health said. In a recent media briefing, DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider acknowledged that the CNMI has been underserved but it cannot get direct assistance such as additional personnel from related federal agencies due to INS considerations. "The CNMI, like Virgin Islands, is underserved but INS has no jurisdiction here. These are things that are beyond our control," said Hofschneider.

Nov. 11, 2003**Water project still under fire**

Members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Board of Directors have justified the need for further review of the proposed desalination contract of Saipan Taekwang Heavy Industries. "I'm not against the project, but it has to be done right," board member Velma Ann Palacios said in an interview, noting that the lack of water has been a perennial problem on the island. Palacios, who voted against the proposer's contract last week, said, "I will continue to vote 'no' until CUC does its job completely." The utility firm, she said, should have consulted with the public or its customers first.

Governor disapproves 12 more bills

Gov. Juan N. Babauta on Friday vetoed 12 more bills in addition to the four appropriation measures he earlier rejected amid the legal questions challenging the legitimacy of the four-member Senate majority that concurred with the bills' passage from the Legislature. Bills rejected included the proposed Retirement Act, the Commonwealth Hospital Corporation proposal, the anti-stalking legislation and the anti-counterfeiting measure, among others. Maintaining his position from when he vetoed the proposed FY04 budget last Oct. 20, Babauta reiterated in his veto message that "until the question of whether the Senate had the requisite quorum present to conduct business from August 27, 2003 is answered by the court, the administration cannot know with certainty which bill was constitutionally enacted by the Legislature."

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EDITORIAL

The free-trade fight

The wide differences between Republicans and Democrats on economic policy don't leave much room for compromise over the next two years. But Tuesday's takeover of the House of Representatives by the GOP raises hopes for progress on at least one important initiative: It might help President Obama win approval of a U.S.-South Korea free-trade pact.

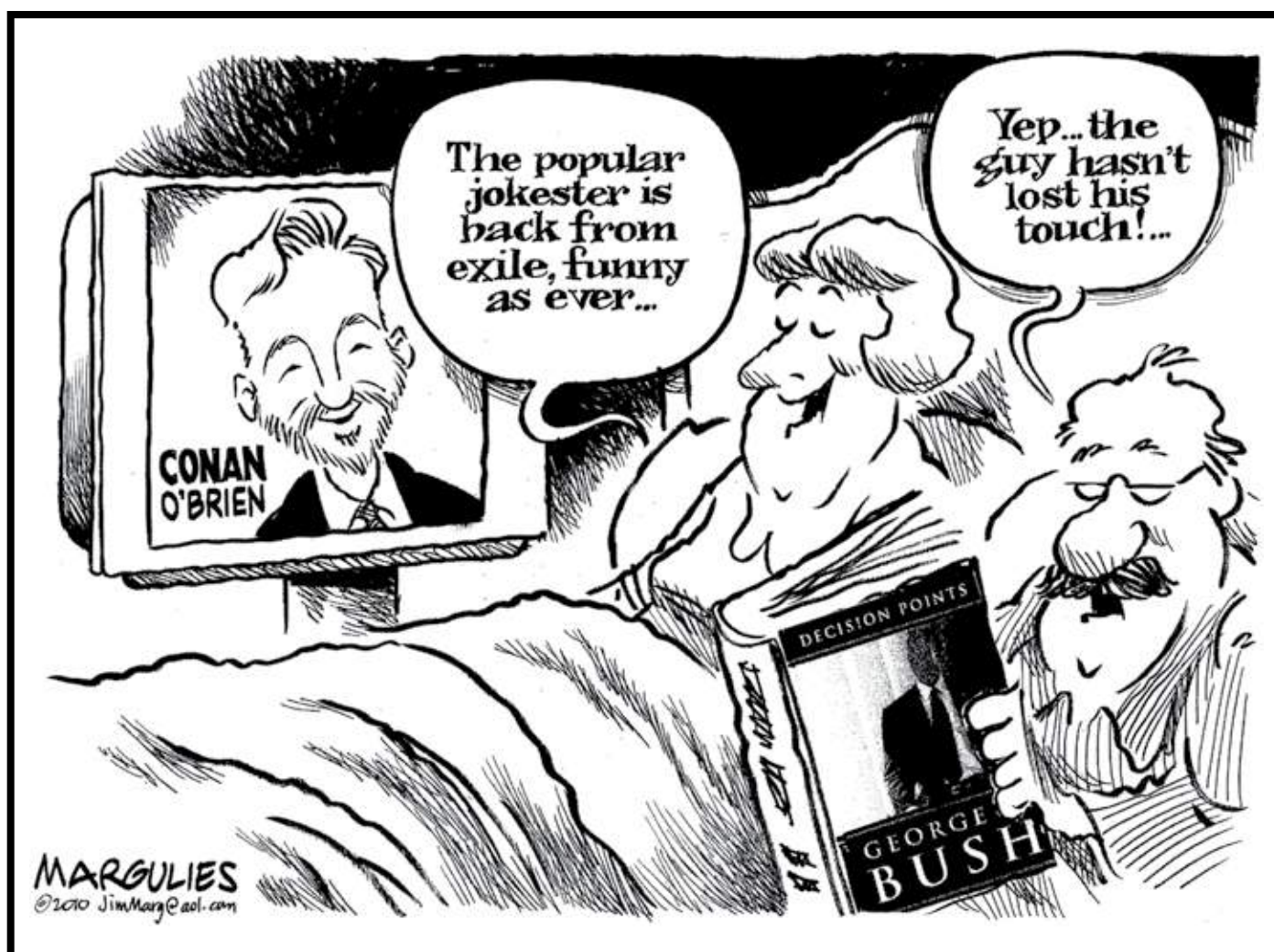
President George W. Bush was a big proponent of the bilateral agreement with South Korea, which both governments signed in 2007, but he couldn't persuade Congress to approve it. Obama seems an unlikely champion, especially since he criticized the deal during his 2008 presidential campaign. But rather than kill the pact, he's working to renegotiate it. In June, Obama promised South Korean President Lee Myung-bak that he would revive the stalled trade talks in hopes of producing a mutually agreeable deal by Nov. 11, when Obama will travel to Seoul for the G-20 economic summit.

Obama evidently hopes to appease U.S. automakers who think the existing pact does too little to open the South Korean market to American cars, and ranchers who fret about South Korean restrictions on beef imports. Tweaking the pact to accommodate them shouldn't pose an excessive challenge, but it's improbable that U.S. labor unions will ever support the deal—and where organized labor leads, the Democratic Party tends to follow. Union fears that lower trade barriers will prompt a loss of American jobs not only ignore the job growth that can be expected as South Korean consumers buy more American products, but the positive (and job-producing) economic impacts of lower prices for South Korean goods in the United States. According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, the pact would boost U.S. gross domestic product by up to \$12 billion a year.

What's more, failing to approve the deal would put the U.S. at a serious disadvantage to the European Union, which signed its own bilateral trade pact with South Korea last month. South Korean trade also threatens to shift increasingly toward China.

It's questionable whether Obama will have the political courage to upset the Democrats' political base by seriously pushing for the trade deal. Also unknown is whether the freshman class of "tea party"-backed Republicans will be as gung-ho for free trade as GOP stalwarts have been. But if only Richard Nixon could go to China, it may be that only Obama, with his labor credentials, could get away with opening our markets to South Korea. And a GOP-controlled House may give him a welcome opportunity to do it.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



A Mo Mo update

My Pinoy compatriots will be forgiven if they think that this is a Halloween update. *Mo mo* in Pinoy is a child's name for an eerie apparition, the ghost of our fears and the genie of our imagination.

Mo mo of our concern is a live legal case of an unexplained and neglected incarceration of a felon in our CNMI correction facility, brought before the Commonwealth court for legal remedial action, and treated by the AG's office as a normal occurrence, perhaps unfortunate (though the AG never indicated it to be so), but not a matter worthy of adjudication for its apparent violation of civil rights. In fact, since the plaintiff is an alien contract worker, the case may be routinely ignored or disposed of, as is the case of many other legal matters involving this widely exploited and abused segment of the island population. The case of *Mo mo v. government officials* is pending in our federal court and followed closely by one of our daily newspapers.

In our search for alternative employ outside the teaching profession, we pulled out our old paralegal certificate and tried sizing the application of our skill within the legal profession. The precision of legal language was not foreign to us since we did deal with immigration and labor matters while attending to the services offered by the former Marianas Resource Center of the Immanuel UMC but we also found our effectivity to be more on the side of the "human" factor rather than placing the proper technical terms in legal briefs.

Our association with labor rights' advocate and former legislative legal counsel Stephen Woodruff brought us to Mo mo's case. An ardent defender of the function of law in defense of the rights of the many when pitted against the often excess privileges of the few, he joins the ranks of my acquaintance when early on in Saipan, I became associated with the daring duo of Tim and Jenny Skinner. They took on the powerful garment industry in one of the celebrated class suits for exploited factory workers. Our MRC's sanctuary service hosted some of their clients.

Briefly, Mo mo hails from Yanbian. A decade earlier, she and her parents decided to seek better employment in Korea but, at the last minute, Mo mo's husband prevailed on her to come to Saipan, braving the US\$7k recruitment fee they had to put up. A sickly unemployed spouse and a marriage on the rocks, with an 8-year-old daughter growing fast, Mo mo took on the allure of "big money" on Saipan, although she already proved her earning prowess in a steady and stable restaurant operation.

The story follows the common pattern. Two years of "long and hard labor" was not sufficient to regain cost of initial investment, and the journey after two years of sewing, from waiting on tables to distributing "ice," Mo mo finally earned enough to return home. She was in the verge of doing so when the long arm of the law caught up with her.

Chastened and self-condemning for the seeming frivolity of the choices she made, she forsook her material gains and prepared to re-

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



turn home. The judges' verdict was immediate deportation to country of origin. But she fell off the cracks of the AG's overwhelmed officers, and languished behind bars for an additional 88 days before she finally got a lawyer to get her out of incarceration.

Routine neglect of the rights of convicted felons is not unheard of elsewhere but the United States prides itself for its legislation on the civil rights of those under its sovereign rule, and its sensitivity to human rights anywhere in the world. Mo mo brought her case to court to seek her peers' judgment, judge or jury, on the matter of her seemingly violated civil rights.

The AG's office almost got her deported when her lawyer tried to settle out of court and waited until the 11th hour to file legal briefs. Mo mo then became our ward.

More than a year after her case was filed, Mo mo finally returned home. Instead of being deported, Mo mo left the CNMI on her own volition and at her own cost. The support of her Tinian "family" James and Norbert Manglona was generous and considerable. She returned to Yanbian where the farm of her childhood, of rice fields on the plain, apple and peaches in the orchard, chicken on the range, and hogs in the pen, is gone. Her parents still in Korea, her daughter now a young woman of 18, and her spouse's health deteriorated to qualify for disability and workman's comp, Mo mo will have to start all over again.

Mo mo came to meet us briefly with her daughter in Yanji after our transcendent Changbaishan episode. She remains in limbo while China's bureaucratic wheels update her national card. One cannot move around China much without a proper identification card. She is set to "apprentice" at her younger brother's soup kitchen 100 miles away in Mudanjiang, Heilongjiang, perhaps, for a couple of months, and see if she wants to open her own soup kitchen elsewhere.

Having left the CNMI on her own, we think USCIS will be inclined to permit her to attend her own court case, should her legal plea requires her presence. Meanwhile, a soul whose sights has matured and been broadened, and consciousness deepened, in a decade-long Saipan experience and exposure returns to a new China. Mo mo can decide to be an apparition of her old self, or become a new creature in a new Earth.

Mo mo expects to receive her national I.D. this week. We wish her well.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ideas and execution

The Office of Insular Affairs' Forum on Labor & Economic Development was held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, with over 120 representatives from the government, education, and business collectively using their brainpower to find ways to increase revenue and federal funding, improve efficiency, create more jobs, and improve the quality of life. If we could implement the top ten percent of the ideas, it has the potential to steer our economic ship away from the impending iceberg.

The operative word in the previous sentence is "implement." Now that we have a plethora of ideas, someone has to do something or nothing will get done. Many of the ideas will require more thought and planning, as well as adequate resources to get the ball rolling. However, some of them could be started right away with the resources we currently have at our disposal.

The concept of implementation has been the subject of several popular books. In *Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done*, authors Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan discuss execution cultures where exemplary on-time, on-budget performance is a vital key to exceptional results. The best-selling book *Good to Great* by Jim Collins identifies the power of steady, step-by-step implementation as the key to accelerating growth and improving performance. The bottom line is that the ideas need to translate into results that add value to others.

Robert A. Neiman in his book *Execution Plain and Simple* outlines 12 steps of execution, with the first step being: Take responsibility. Someone will need to be responsible for each idea to be implemented. This means taking the initiative to achieve specific objectives and tasks needed to see the idea through to fruition. This first step encompasses the mental preparation and commitment necessary to complete the other 11 steps of the process.

The second step requires the idea to be defined in writing, ideally in a memorandum that specifies the outcome, individuals involved, general timeframe, and the evaluation criteria to periodically report the progress being made. This becomes the assignment that is agreed upon before starting the project.

With your marching orders in hand, it is time to put together a good core team to help develop a solid strategy that will become

the basic approach used to implement the project. This third step should lead to a plan of action that identifies the resources needed, clarifies roles of the team members, and possible risks and actions to avoid. This should be condensed into a one-page summary that will help members understand the important details and gain greater commitment.

The fourth step is to take the summary and get input from key players so the strategy can be refined. This will help get agreement from those who have bought into the project, and it will identify challenges before you start. With this insight you'll be able to determine the feasibility of the project and make adjustments early in the process before you've committed a lot of time, energy, and money into it.

Now it's time to actually take action and create momentum by holding a compelling launch event. Starting off with an event gets everyone's attention, signals that this project is special, gets the team focused on the project, and lets the team know that others are aware of it and will be watching.

The sixth step is to spell out the specific tasks in writing. Team members need to know how they can contribute toward the project completion. This step also includes periodically reporting on the progress of the project through a weekly or monthly written progress report. When everything is running smoothly, the reports will be brief; however, the written report can also help identify problems and get the necessary support to keep the project moving forward.

Next, is an important step in execution: make demands effectively. Demands allow you to keep the project moving, establish a sense of control, and help create a sense of urgency. Effective demands are mandates that inspire people to do better and take personal accountability for the completion of the project.

The eighth step is to follow up like crazy without driving people crazy in the process. Make personal site visits to reinforce and advance the project. Follow up lets those responsible know that there's high interest in the progress of the assignment.

Another important activity is to win constituents and overcome opposition. As you're making progress on your project, there will inevitably be some snags along the way. Identifying your allies and getting their support will help overcome any political snafus that

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Special to the Saipan Tribune

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might occur.

The tenth step is to use creative problem solving to overcome unforeseen risks, delays, and obstacles. This requires brainstorming to develop options and then identify the best alternative. Specify the problem or issue and the factors that appear to be the root causes of the problem.

Eleven involves an intense push at the end to get the final results and recognize the effort made by the team. You started off with a launch, now it's time to end the project with another event where team members are recognized, and possibly rewarded.

The last step is critical, but is often ignored. You should capture the lessons learned and disseminate your knowledge in a systematic manner so that others can benefit. This can be accomplished by asking this basic question in the assessment process: Did we fully accomplish all that we set out to accomplish?

The Forum on Labor and Economic Development was productive and helped generate a lot of ideas to improve the economy. It provided an opportunity for individuals from the public and private sector to meet and learn more about each other. Execution of the best ideas is now required to make things happen. You see, our intangible ideas are like seeds planted in the ground. They have the power to change our world and ultimately improve our life, but only if acted upon and nourished. If it's a bad idea, it will fail, but if it's a good idea it will add value to the lives of others and change our circumstances. When the 12 steps are followed, your projects will start moving rapidly toward the specified goals, and your strategic plan will become a living, working document.

Oh, in case you'd like to follow up on the results of the Forum, you can go to <http://www.doi.gov/oia/>

Why we should: Part II

Second part of a series

Yesterday we learned that the case for legalizing marijuana has three main components. In the first section of this article we found that we citizens have constitutionally granted inalienable right to liberty and personal freedom and that the government cannot legally take authority not specifically granted to it. But they have done so illegally.

Today we will take a look at some common misconceptions about crime and usage in areas where pot is or was perfectly legal. We will discover that the legalization of pot does not cause crime to increase; in fact it is the exact opposite, legalizing it reduces crime and stops funding terrorists and criminals.

Let's look back to the early period of the 20th Century during which several religious groups and other organizations, notably the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union), decided to push for legislation to take alcohol use from being a personal choice for adults to a substance prohibited by law. In their zeal to legislate the morality of others they failed to notice (or just looked the other way) that there would be severe consequences. They managed to get a constitutional ban placed on alcohol consumption via the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and almost instantly ushered in a reign of terror and organized crime the likes of which this nation had never seen.

It should have come as no surprise that, when there is a demand for something and that demand is stifled by force of law or by any other means, the demand will get satisfied some other way. Black markets in liquor arose immediately. Once legal shipping lanes became instant illegal "rum runners." The obvious happened: Prices for the now illegal substance skyrocketed and the quality of the merchandise went down. Huge armed gangs formed to protect their interests and their supply lines and retail outlets. Huge profits were to be made and guns were used by criminals to enforce protection of their turf. Organized crime was born. Organized crime was, and is, a child of morality legislation and of Prohibition, not of liquor use.

Why does the black market cause violence and crime? Because the price of a prohibited substance rises the instant it is not allowed. Demand remains the same, which causes prices to escalate even higher. Do you think someone would rob your house or steal copper wire from an abandoned building if the commodity

they desired cost 50 cents or a dollar instead of the hundreds of dollars demanded by the criminal element of a black market? Obviously not. The crime and violence comes as a byproduct of and is *caused* by the prohibition of the substance, not by the substance itself.

This becomes a source of money and power and increased influence for those charged with enforcing the prohibition. They stand to gain a great deal; job security for themselves and literally billions of dollars pumped into their coffers to pretend to be able to stop what should be an adult's own choice to make or not to make. They know they can't stop it. They know that by trying to stop it, it grows and goes underground and lets them pretend to have the need to grow ever more powerful themselves to keep up the pretense. In the U.S., pretending to stop drug use has grown completely out of control and has become a multibillion dollar industry consuming a large percentage of our taxes.

Back to the '20s-'30's: Finally after a decade of rampant crime and with reality staring them in the face the voters demanded a repeal of Prohibition, and got it via another constitutional amendment, the 21st. But the damage was done, and the entrenched bureaucrats saw the power they were able to achieve and lusted after more. They knew that the voters had learned their lesson and would not unleash the harm to themselves and their families caused by another round of Prohibition so they resorted to an illegal power grab that continues to this day. Thus the illegal and unconstitutional prohibition of marijuana and other substances was born and causes pain, death and destruction even until today.

If it is legal, it becomes cheap and available simply by going into a store and buying it, like mongo beans or Spam. No gang needs to form to protect it, and a whole class of "criminals" become what they really are, just adults deciding to use or not use a particular herb over some other herb. Did anyone ever resort to burglary to get a bag of mongo beans? What would happen if they made mongo beans—"the poor man's meal"—illegal to possess or eat? The price would go way up and a black market would form and the FBI would chase their tails and pretend to be our moral guardians and save us from the demon mongo beans, spending billions of our money on the charade.

In countries where marijuana and other drugs are legal to use, the actual usage goes down, not up. Witness Australia and Norway, orderly societies both. Children are protected from using it

By **STANLEY MCGINNIS TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stanley McGinnis Torres is a representative in the 17th CNMI Legislature.



not by authorities or by laws but by their parents, just like now. The difference is that adults who choose to inhale a particular leaf after setting it on fire are not criminals anymore. They are just consenting adults minding their own business. If you want to come and force me to use it, I am just as appalled as I am if you want to stop someone else from using it. It is simply not a decision that your government should be making for you. Next time you see someone demonized or jailed for daring to buy a marijuana cigarette, think about a \$25 bag of green beans.

I quoted David Boaz from the Cato Institute yesterday and I think he has something important to say in today's context as well: He said, "Prohibition causes crime and corruption. It diverts law enforcement resources. It channels money to criminals here and abroad. It devastates our inner cities. It imposes huge social costs on such countries as Colombia and Mexico." His quote ends here but I would go on to say, "and all for no gain at all, except for the few who maintain power and control over the rest of use by the use of governmental force of arms."

What if you were to wake up tomorrow morning and the usurpers of constitutional power had changed their minds and decided that the "war on drugs" should be fought to force you to take drugs, and which ones you had to take every day? That is no more irrational and no more unconstitutional and no more just plain wrong than forcing you not to ingest the herb of your own choice as they do today. After all they do call themselves the Drug Enforcement Agency.






Tomorrow we will discuss the money issue. I think you will find that the CNMI's economy would be *booming* if adults were allowed to make their own legal decisions about marijuana farming, possession and usage.

To be continued.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲ 87 ▼ 80 |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 86 ▼ 78 |
| Yap | Rain | ▲ 86 ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲ 82 ▼ 77 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲ 84 ▼ 72 |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | ▲ 85 ▼ 74 |
| Majuro | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 85 ▼ 75 |

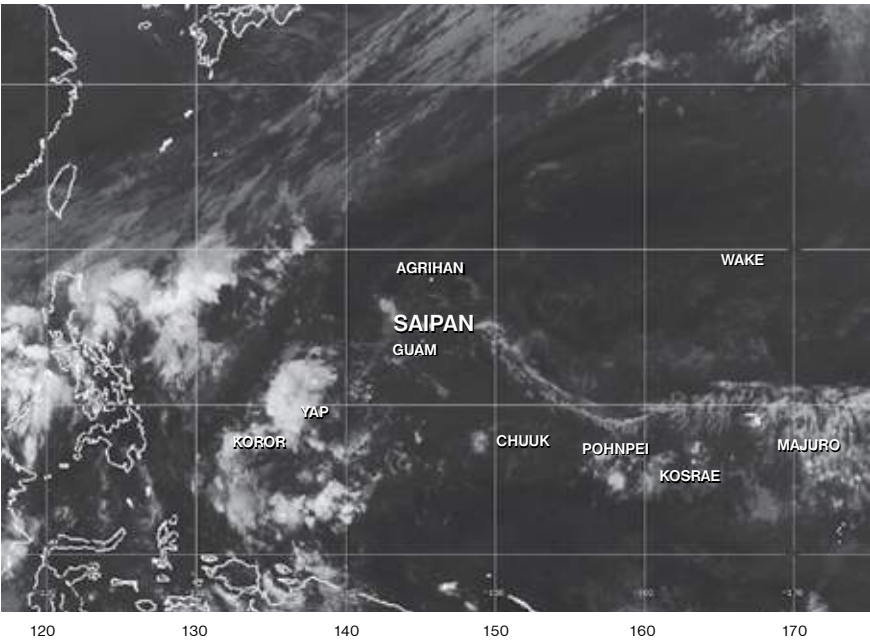
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 66 ▼ 59 |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 55 ▼ 31 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 57 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 83 ▼ 74 |
| London | Rain | ▲ 56 ▼ 50 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲ 73 ▼ 49 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲ 88 ▼ 76 |
| Melbourne | Thundershowers | ▲ 87 ▼ 61 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 81 ▼ 67 |
| New York | Sunny | ▲ 55 ▼ 39 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲ 67 ▼ 53 |
| Paris | Rain | ▲ 60 ▼ 55 |
| Pusan | Windy | ▲ 63 ▼ 49 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲ 68 ▼ 47 |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 55 ▼ 40 |
| San Francisco | Sunny | ▲ 66 ▼ 50 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲ 53 ▼ 41 |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 69 ▼ 52 |
| Washington, DC | Sunny | ▲ 60 ▼ 42 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|--|
| 5:00 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet | |
| 12:29 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet | |
| 5:58 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.3 Feet | |
| 10:01 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet | |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N148E to beyond 17N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front from 17N130E to 20N138E while clouds and patchy rain are up to 300 miles northwest of the front from 20N138E to 25N148E. A surface trough extending southward from 13N136E to 3N135E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau and Yap in an area from 5N130E to 14N138E to 2N140E back to 5N130E. Low-level convergence associated with a series of weak troughs is triggering scattered showers in an area near Pohnpei and Kosrae eastward across the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 6N158E to 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:17 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Friday | 6:17 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Saturday | 6:18 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Sunday | 6:18 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Monday | 6:19 AM | 5:44 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 10:41 AM | 10:18 PM |
| Friday | 11:25 AM | 11:09 PM |
| Saturday | 12:06 PM | 11:58 PM |
| Sunday | 12:43 PM | |
| Monday | 1:18 PM | 12:45 AM |

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2010

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|--|---------|----------|--------------------------|--|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM | | | | GUAM-SAIPAN | | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | C09596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | C09604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily | C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL287 | 6:10am | 8:45am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| DL285 | 6:40am | 9:15am | Daily | DL286 | 3:50pm | 8:25pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:00pm | 12:30am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 | OZ607 | 9:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 | FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/605 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | | via ICN |
| C09317/891 | 2:45am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | DL172/286 | 7:55am | 8:25pm | Daily via NRT |
| DL285/173 | 6:40am | 10:15pm | Daily via NRT | C0890/9606 | 10:55am | 8:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C09313/893 | 7:55am | 10:10pm | 3 via GUM-Palau | OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C09603/933 | 3:05pm | 8:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM | OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C09603/893 | 3:05pm | 10:10pm | 5 via GUM-Palau | C0892/9596 | 9:55pm | 7:25am+1 | 3 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ606/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN | C0892/9596 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 6 via GUM-Palau |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | PR110/C0596 | 10:00pm | 7:25am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| | | | | C0934/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| | | | | C0934/9596 | 11:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 3, 5 via GUM |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG | | | | HONG KONG-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00am | 1 via ICN | OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | | via ICN |
| C09603/909 | 3:05pm | 9:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/723 | 3:20pm | 10:35pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| | | | | C0910/9596 | 10:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |
| Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana | | | | ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | | | |

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40 | 11:50 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| | | | | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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THURSDAY NOV 11TH ★ FRIDAY NOV 12TH ★ SATURDAY NOV 13TH**

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bracelets up to \$2,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charm Bracelets ... up to \$2,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Necklaces up to \$1,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Service Awards .. up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Necklaces up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charms up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pens up to \$400 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Bracelets .. up to \$1,500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold School Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watches up to \$1,750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Cuff Links up to \$300 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Cases up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Rings up to \$800 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Rings up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bangles up to \$850 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pendants up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Bracelets .. up to \$2,500 | | |

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|--|---------------------------|
| \$1.00 Silver (1935 & earlier) | \$9 up to \$12,500 |
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| 25C Silver (1964 & earlier) | \$1.50 up to \$750 |
| 10C Silver (1964 & earlier) | \$.50 up to \$250 |

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maia gears up for 5th Christmas giveaway for Tinian kids

Despite an unavoidable temporary closure during the past year, maia's Free Books & Donation Center is still open and maia is gearing up for her fifth year in a row of providing at least one Christmas gift for each of the island's neediest children.

Again this year, no vouchers will be necessary and any parent in need can just come by and pick out a gift for each child.

This wouldn't be possible, maia said, but for the generosity of business owners like the SM store, Mrs. Kim, U-Save,

Long Feng, the Diaz family and the many individuals who have donated new toys, games, and school supplies every year. Plus those maia helps with their writing by email, who send books all year round and gifts for the yearly

event from the U.S. and other parts of the world.

Donations can be dropped off at the Center, which is in the duplex behind the Mayor's offices, any time of the day or night, any day of the week. If the Center is closed, maia asks that you knock on the door, in case she's there, as she's only ever gone for a few minutes, to get groceries.

In the past four years of run-

ning this Christmas program, maia has provided gifts to over 120 children from almost 50 families every year and says she's sad to have to say that this year she is expecting to exceed that total, due to the number of people out of work now.

"So it's more important than ever," she adds, "for those who still have jobs, or who have businesses, to help me to make this Christmas a bit brighter for

those who are not so fortunate. I have faith in the good hearts of my island neighbors, so I have no doubt this will be our best year ever. Bless you all!"

For additional information, maia can be reached by phone at 433-9993, or by email at maia3maia@hotmail.com. For donation pick-up, donors can call maia, or Donation Center volunteer Connie Manglona directly, at 287-3285. **(PR)**

Interior supports islandwide youth initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Tony Babauta, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas, signed yesterday a \$262,500 grant to the Close Up Foundation. Funding supports existing efforts to bolster the nation's largest non-profit civic education programs that extend opportunities to students in the U.S. insular areas and the Freely Associated States, or FAS.

Participating students and teachers will travel to the nation's capital and spend a week

meeting with federal officials, engaging in public policy workshops, current issues debates and visit various historical sites.

"The programs furnished by Close Up afford our students in the insular areas and the FAS the unique opportunity to travel the long distance to Washington, develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of government and the role that each individual plays in our democratic system," said Babauta.

"The experience is indispen-

sible and one that will last students a lifetime. I am glad our office can continue to lend its support to this important youth initiative," he added.

The Close Up Foundation has been administering civic education programs in the Pacific Islands through funding provided by the Office of Insular Affairs for over 20 years. Close Up also conducts local civic education programs as well as student workshops at island-based education conferences. **(DOI)**

Last call for submissions to island writing anthology

The deadline to submit a piece for the upcoming anthology of local writers is fast approaching. The last day to submit original work to *Stories from Wild Bill's Cafe: Life, Love and Spicy Tofu in the Northern Mariana Islands* is Dec. 15.

"We received a lot of interest when we announced the anthology back in September," said Angelo O'Connor Villagomez. "The editors have received works from

a dozen writers so far, but we've also heard from many others who expressed an intention to submit. We just want to remind everyone that there is about a month left before the deadline."

Submitted work will be blind reviewed by a panel of editors. The lead editors of *Stories from Wild Bill's Cafe* are Jane Mack, Joe Race, Jaime Vergara, and Villagomez.

The inspiration for the name

of the anthology comes from Wild Bills Café, a popular restaurant on Beach Road in Garapan.

Writers interested in submitting work for the anthology can contact the editors at WildBillStories@gmail.com. Submission guidelines are available upon request. Writers whose work is chosen for submission will receive two (2) copies of *Stories from Wild Bills Cafe*.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT


Happy birthday greetings go out to Debbie, who is celebrating her birthday today! Greetings come from your loving husband Jonmarch and son DJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




Birthday greetings go out to Desiree Babauta Carayaoan, who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 11, 2010! Wishing you all the great things in life, hope this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest. Greetings come from Wilma, Phil, and the children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NMHC RFP 2010-011

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
FOR
THE TINIAN FIRE DIVISION STATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) for the **Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Tinian Fire Division Station**, San Jose, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This design services is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Local Business Preference as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposals procedures shall be in full compliance with section 4-102 of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on or after Friday, November 12, 2010, at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation). Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on Friday, November 19, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Rota Field Office. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than Friday, November 19, 2010 - 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of completion, with details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (names and experience) not to exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that firm that submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractor may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Professional qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of services – 30%
2. Project approach – 20%
3. Capacity to accomplished the work in the required time – 25%
4. Past performance on contract with Government on similar projects – 25%

Proposals must be sealed and marked **NMHC RFP 2010-011**. For proposal within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of a foreign country no later than Friday, December 3, 2010 - AND must be received no later than Friday, December 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. local time, Friday, December 10, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 2010.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect-engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reason price is agreed upon;


The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.




The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procure & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Energy Star Rebate Program
(CNMI-EECBG-ARRA-ESRP)

Public Service Announcement

This is to inform ALL Applicants/Recipients of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Star Rebate Program that the following Retailers of qualified energy-efficient ENERGY STAR appliances are registered with the CNMI Energy Division Office as Participating Retailers and authorized to accept and process Appliance Rebate Vouchers issued by the CNMI Energy Division.

The following Registered Participating Retailers are:

- YCO Corporation – Garapan
- Pacific Home Appliance – Garapan
- ACE Hardware Stores – Gualo Rai, San Vicente, and Susupe Branch
- Taro Sue Stores – Garapan
- Gree Air-conditioner Store – Beach Rd. Garapan
- Advance Air-conditioning – Garapan
- Pacific Chang Hong Corporation – Koblerville

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the CNMI Energy Division Office at 670-664-4480/1 or fax at 670-664-4483 or email address at cnmienergy@gmail.com or you may visit our office located at House No. 1337, Ascencion Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday except legal holidays. On Friday, office will be open between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. except on every government payday week Friday, the office will be closed.

Thank You,

/s/ **Thelma B. Inos**
Director

Business

G20 leaders meet amid strains as US splashes cash

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Tensions over currencies and trade gaps are simmering ahead of a summit of global leaders this week as America's move to flood its sluggish economy with \$600 billion of cash triggers alarm in capitals from Berlin to Beijing.

Major exporting countries such as China and Germany are complaining about the Federal Reserve's decision to buy more Treasury bonds to try to lower interest rates, spur growth and reduce high unemployment rate in the United States. They say the Fed's plans are driving down the dollar's value and giving U.S. goods an unfair competitive edge in world markets.

Smaller countries such as Thailand and Indonesia say they fear the Fed's action will send cash into their markets in search of higher returns. That risks raising their currency values, squeezing their exporters and inflating bubbles in stocks or other assets that could desta-

bilize their financial systems.

As the Group of 20 major rich and developing nations prepare to meet in Seoul, President Barack Obama defended the Fed. He said the central bank was following its mandate to "grow our economy." Obama also took a veiled shot at China for keeping its own currency, the yuan, low to benefit Chinese exporters.

"We can't continue to sustain a situation in which some countries are maintaining massive surpluses, others massive deficits, and there never is the kind of adjustments with respect to currency that would lead to a more balanced growth pattern," Obama told reporters in India.

The Group of 20 major rich and developing nations has taken on the role of reforming the world economy in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Its leaders first met two years ago and have set out an ambitious agenda to ensure stable economic growth, strengthen

financial supervision to prevent another meltdown and give developing countries more of a voice.

But discussions on achieving those goals at the summit Thursday and Friday in Seoul are being complicated by the furor over the Fed's decision to buy \$600 billion in Treasury bonds over the next eight months to try to energize the U.S. economy.

At the heart of the discussions is the recognition that a decades-long global economic

Oil companies increasingly eye natural gas

NEW YORK (AP)—Pretty soon, Big Oil will be more like Big Gas.

The major oil companies are increasingly betting their futures on natural gas, with older oil fields producing less crude and newer ones either hard to reach or controlled by unfriendly nations.

They are focusing more than ever on natural gas because it burns cleaner than oil and is gaining traction as a fuel for transportation. The latest move came Tuesday, when Chevron made a \$4.3 billion deal to buy up natural gas fields in the Northeast.

Earlier this year, Exxon Mobil bought XTO Energy to become America's largest producer of natural gas. And Royal Dutch Shell expects natural gas to make up half its total global production in two years.

"If you look at most of the big developments now, they're not about oil, it's gas," said Oppenheimer & Co. analyst Fadel Gheit.

The world will continue to run on crude oil for years to come, but even with new discoveries, oil production is expected to flatten out during the next few decades, according to the latest estimates from the International Energy Association.

Far down the road, Gheit believes, Exxon and Shell will lead the energy industry into a new era where oil companies devote most of their efforts to producing natural gas. The Energy Information Administration expects worldwide natural gas production to increase 46 percent from 2007 to 2035, compared with a 30 percent increase in world production of crude and natural gas liquids.

Gas is becoming more attractive to the oil companies because it's more accessible. While OPEC controls most of the world's oil reserves, it controls less than half of the natural gas reserves.



order centered on the U.S. buying exports from the rest of the world and running huge trade deficits while countries such as China, Germany and Japan accumulate vast surpluses is no longer tenable in the aftermath of the crisis.

"The present world economy is unbalanced," Paul Volcker, a top economic adviser to President Barack Obama and a former Fed chief, said in Seoul last week. "It's unbalanced in a way that can't persist if we are going to have a thriving global economy."

The attempt to give the world

economy an extreme makeover has gotten some of its momentum from the rise of countries such as India, China and Brazil to become economic and political giants in their own right. The G-20 meetings themselves are a sign of how much things have changed since the crisis. They symbolize the end of a system in place since the 1940s in which the world economy was managed largely by a handful of rich nations led by the United States, Europe and later Japan.

The forum, established in 1999, is a disparate combination of rich nations, developing economies, rising powers and consumers and producers of

natural resources. The European Union is also a member. It took the financial crisis, however, to thrust the G-20 into a position of global leadership, supplanting the Group of Seven club of advanced nations.

Besides discussing currencies and reducing trade gaps, G-20 leaders are also likely to endorse proposals for beefing up supervision of large banks and other financial institutions. They are also widely expected to express support for a proposal to give developing countries more voting power at the International Monetary Fund and more seats on the board of the key global lender.

\$12.3M contract awarded to maintain radio transmitters on Tinian, Saipan

NEW HARTFORD, N.Y.—Rome Research Corp., a subsidiary of PAR Technology Corp., was awarded a \$12.3 million contract to operate and maintain the Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station Facilities which are radio transmitting facilities located on Tinian and Saipan.

The contract, awarded by the Broadcasting Board of Governors, an agency of the U.S. government, has a performance period of five years.

RRC provides broadcast services, operations and maintenance of high-frequency radio transceiver equipment, maintenance of the satellite communication system, and other related services.

"We are pleased that the BBG selected Rome Research to support its radio transmitting operations at Tinian and Saipan.

In addition to RRC's extensive knowledge in performing these services, our contract proposal exceeded the customer's expectations and provided the basis to elevate RRC for the contract award decision," said Steve Lynch, president of PAR's Government Operations. "We look forward to our continuing partnership with the BBG in support of its on-going mission."

Rome Research Corp., headquartered in Rome, New York, is an information technology and communication services company that has provided support to the U.S. Department of Defense for over 35 years. The company operates from over 25 offices throughout the United States and worldwide. For more information, visit www.romeresearch.com. **(Business Wire)**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices slip after dollar grows stronger

Oil prices slipped Tuesday after revving to a two-year high as the dollar grew stronger, discouraging some traders. Benchmark oil for December delivery lost 34 cents to settle at \$86.72 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the day, a weaker dollar helped propel oil to \$87.63 a barrel, the highest level since October 2008, when the depth of the global financial crisis took hold. But the dollar grew stronger as the day wore on. Since commodities are priced in dollars, a stronger dollar means they become more expensive for buyers who use other currencies.

Asian shares up in early trade despite falls in US

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets were mostly higher in early trade Wednesday, despite a decline overnight in New York as U.S. investors shifted to commodities. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average was up 1.5 percent at 9836.41, while the South Korean Kospi rose 0.4 percent to 1955.79. The Australian S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.2 percent to 4,748.60, while shares in Taiwan and New Zealand were also higher. Meanwhile, the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index dropped 0.7 percent to 3111.8, and shares in



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INVITATION TO BID NMHC IFB 2010-014

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX SOFTBALL FIELD FENCING & ELECTRICAL ROOM** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, November 12, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20080001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 22, 2010**, at the Susupe Sports Complex Softball Field Fencing & Electrical Room project site in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-014**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than Friday, December 3, 2010 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than Friday, December 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, Friday, December 10, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Softball Field Fencing & Electrical Room". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is seventy-five (75) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
NMHC Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Nation

Elizabeth Smart testifies about day she was found

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Elizabeth Smart was so terrified of her abductor that on the day police found her, she told them she was someone else.

She took the stand at her alleged kidnapper's trial for a second day Tuesday, telling jurors she was also too scared to speak up when a detective tried to question her in a public library months before she was finally freed.

Smart spent nearly six hours testifying in a steady voice be-

fore a rapt audience in U.S. District Court.

She told jurors Brian David Mitchell raped her almost daily and forced her to drink, use drugs and view pornography. Once she tried to flee, and Mitchell and his wife caught her and told her an angel would cut her down with a sword if she ever tried it again.

Mitchell, who knew Smart because her mother had hired him to fix the family's leaky roof, is accused of kidnapping

her from her bed in June 2002, when she was 14.

His attorneys say the homeless street preacher known as Immanuel was influenced by a worsening mental illness and religious beliefs that made him think he was doing what God wanted.

Smart testified Tuesday that when police finally found her in March 2003, wearing a wig and sunglasses and walking along a suburban Salt Lake City street with Mitchell and his wife, she

told them she was Augustine Marshall, the daughter of traveling preachers.

Smart, now 23, said that was the story Mitchell had instructed her to tell if ever the three were approached.

Police separated them and peppered Smart with questions. They were tipped off by drivers who reported seeing the girl.

"I was very scared. I knew the threats that I had been told for nine months," said Smart, who was handcuffed and placed in the back of a police car. "I thought maybe at the same time that this is it. This is it, this is over."

Smart also told jurors about a missed chance to tell police

what had happened when a detective approached her at the Salt Lake City library in the early fall, a few months after she was kidnapped.

She was wearing a robe and a veil that covered her face, and the detective asked if he could look under it.

"He said he was looking for Elizabeth Smart," Smart said.

Under the table, Mitchell's now-estranged wife, Wanda Eileen Barzee, squeezed her leg, a sign that Smart should remain quiet. Mitchell refused to let the detective talk to her, saying it was not allowed in their religion and only her husband would ever see her face.

The detective pressed.

"He asked if he could be a part of our religion for a day, just so he could see my face, just so he could go back (to the police station) and say, 'No it wasn't Elizabeth Smart,'" she said.

Mitchell calmly refused, and the detective gave up and left.

"I was mad at myself, that I didn't say anything," she said. "I felt terrible that the detective hadn't pushed harder and had just walked away."

Afterward, Mitchell sped up plans to move the trio away from Utah, so Smart would not be discovered, she told jurors. They spent the summer in California before hitchhiking back to Utah the day before she was found.



Brian David Mitchell, left, and his attorney Audrey James are shown in this courtroom sketch Monday, Nov. 8, 2010 in Salt Lake City.

Ex-Marines arrested in Los Angeles weapons scheme

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal agents have arrested three retired Marines suspected of selling illegal assault weapons to a notorious Los Angeles street gang, authorities said Tuesday.

The suspected ringleader, Adam Gitschlag, who served in Iraq and was once based at Camp Pendleton, was arrested at his Orange County home Nov. 2 as part of an operation carried out by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as military investigators and local police.

The arrests were announced a week after a Navy SEAL in San Diego and two others were charged with smuggling machine guns from Iraq for sale on the black market.

Investigative documents state that Gitschlag oversaw the sale of two cases containing firearms, including an AK-47, two Russian and Romanian variants of the weapon and two other semiautomatic rifles.

Under California law, it is illegal to own or sell unregistered assault weapons.

Reached on his cell phone, Gitschlag said the charges are "definitely untrue," and that

he is a private weapons collector and patriot who has worked hard to serve his country.

"I did not sell any gang members any weapons," he said. "I love my country with all my heart. I would never expect my government to do this."

The ATF says the deal was carried out June 23 in the parking lot of a Pasadena post office. Gitschlag, along with another former Marine, met with a postal service supervisor, a Florencia 13 street gang member and other associates, and sold them the weapons for \$6,000, the ATF said.

Unbeknown to Gitschlag, one of the men was working as an ATF informant.

In front of the F-13 gang member, the informant asked Gitschlag if he would be willing to sell more firearms to other gang members in the future. He agreed, according to a search warrant affidavit.

The gang member never took possession of the weapons, and the informant gave them to ATF agents after the sale.

On Monday, ATF agents arrested Jose Smith Pacheco, 31, of Montebello, and Miguel A. Ortiz, 49, of Northridge, both

former Marines.

Also arrested were Edwin Cano, 33, of Northridge, and Christopher John Thomas, 32, of Van Nuys.

All five defendants are charged with five counts each of having unlawful assault weapons. Cano faces additional counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Nov. 3, authorities arrested three men, including an active duty U.S. Navy SEAL, for conspiring to smuggle and sell weapons to an undercover federal agent in Nevada and Colorado.

According to a criminal complaint, SEAL Nicholas Bickle of San Diego smuggled 80 AK-47 weapons from Iraq or Afghanistan, including factory-made 7.62 mm Iraqi machine guns that would be difficult or impossible to trace. Other weapons included Ruger handguns of the type used by U.S. military police officers.

In Gitschlag's case, investigators were still trying to determine where the guns came from, but several were purchased at gun shows in Arizona, ATF spokesman Chris Hoffman said.

Pentagon can't explain 'missile' off California

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon said Tuesday it did not know what created a vapor trail that crossed the skies off the Southern California coast and resembled a missile launch.

Video posted on the CBS News website shows an object flying through the evening sky Monday that left a large contrail, or vapor trail. A news helicopter owned by KCBS, a CBS affiliate in Los Angeles, shot the video.

Pentagon officials were stumped by the event. "Nobody within the Department of Defense that we've reached out to has been able to explain what this contrail is, where it came from," Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said.

While the vapor cloud captured on video resembled that created by a rocket in flight, military officials said they

didn't know of any launches in the area.

Lapan said that "all indications" were that the Defense Department was not involved with the object.

One expert called it an optical illusion. "It's an airplane that is heading toward the camera and the contrail is illuminated by the setting sun," said John Pike, director of the U.S.-based security analyst group globalsecurity.org.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, issued a statement jointly with the U.S. Northern Command, or NORTHCOM, saying that the contrail was not the result of a foreign military launching a missile. It provided no details.

"We can confirm that there is no threat to our nation," the statement said. "We will pro-

vide more information as it becomes available."

NORTHCOM is the U.S. defense command and NORAD is a U.S.-Canadian organization charged with protecting the U.S. from the threat of missiles or hostile aircraft.

Pike said the object could not have been a rocket because it appeared to alter its course.

"The local station chopped up the video and so it's hard to watch it continuously," Pike said. "But at one place you can see it has changed course—rockets don't do that."

Pike said he didn't understand why the military had not recognized the contrail of an aircraft. "The Air Force must ... understand how contrails are formed," he said. "Why they can't get some major out to belabor the obvious, I don't know."

ACROSS THE NATION

Help reaches passengers on crippled cruise ship

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The nearly 4,500 passengers and crew of the *Carnival Splendor* have no air conditioning or hot water. Running low on food, they have to eat canned crab meat and Spam dropped in by helicopters. And for two more days, they have no way out. The ship was moving again Tuesday night after the first of several Mexican tugboats en-route to the stricken liner began pulling it toward San Diego, where it was expected to arrive Thursday night, Carnival Cruise Lines said in a statement. What began as a seven-day cruise to the picturesque Mexican Riviera stopped around sunrise Monday when an engine room fire cut power to the 952-foot vessel and set it adrift off Mexico's Pacific coast. No one was hurt and, by Tuesday, U.S. Navy helicopters were ferrying 70,000 pounds of supplies, including the crab meat, croissants, Pop Tarts, Spam and other items, to the stricken ship.

California man arrested in killing of wife, sons

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A domestic dispute erupted into a shooting rampage that ended with a man killing his wife and two sons, authorities said Tuesday. Kouei Wang Saetern, 47, was arrested and booked for investigation of

murder after sheriff's deputies found him in the garage of his south Sacramento County home and the bodies of his family members in different parts of the house, Sgt. Tim Curran said. Two young daughters and a nephew escaped harm when they ran to the nearby home of relatives. The dispute between Saetern and his 48-year-old wife began in their bedroom late Monday, Curran said. Saetern grabbed a rifle and began firing when his sons, ages 19 and 22, tried to intervene, Curran said.

NY man looking for drugs calls 'Crime Stoppers'

CLARENCE, N.Y. (AP)—A New York man looking to buy drugs misdialed and got the sheriff's "Crime Stoppers" line instead. Erie County Sheriff's Detective Alan Rozansky said he got a call around noon on Monday and answered with his usual "Crime Stoppers." The caller apparently didn't hear that and told Rozansky he was looking "to score" drugs. Rozansky told WIVB-TV that he was surprised but played along and arranged a meeting with undercover officers. The officers didn't arrest the caller but used him as an informant to lead them to another transaction taking place down the road. There, police arrested a 35-year-old woman trying to sell her prescription painkillers to a Buffalo man. The careless caller is off the hook for now.

Asia

Obama reaches out to Muslims in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—From the most Muslim nation on earth, President Barack Obama is reaching out to the Islamic world, declaring that efforts to build trust and peace are showing promise but are still clearly “incomplete.”

Obama on Wednesday will deliver one of the most personal and potentially consequential speeches of his presidency, reflecting on his own years of upbringing in Indonesia and giving an update on America’s “new beginning” with Muslims that he promised last year in Cairo.

At the same time, the path to lasting peace in the Middle East was hardly looking smoother. A reminder of that difficult road was waiting for Obama when he landed here Tuesday on a steamy afternoon in southeast Asia. Israel’s decision to build more apartments in east Jerusalem, a disputed territory claimed by Palestinians, had already earned a rebuke from American diplomats before a tired, traveling president



AP
U.S. President Barack Obama, right, talks to Grand Imam Ali Mustafa Yaqub at the Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

weighed in himself.

“This kind of activity is never helpful when it comes to peace negotiations,” Obama said when questioned at a news conference alongside Indonesia’s president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. “I’m concerned that we’re not seeing each side make the extra effort involved to get a breakthrough. ... Each of

these incremental steps can end up breaking down trust.”

Heavily invested and eager for Mideast stability, Obama insisted: “We’re going to keep on working on it.”

Obama’s criticism came during a cherished, fleeting and twice-delayed homecoming in Indonesia. Obama was born and first raised in Hawaii and finished high school there, but he lived for years in between in Jakarta after his mother remarried an Indonesian man. He canceled plans to come earlier this year because of domestic troubles, and now he’s dodging a big cloud of volcanic ash.

Indonesia’s most volatile volcano, Mount Merapi, has erupted with deadly force for days. The White House determined Air Force One could fly in as scheduled to Jakarta but that Obama should shorten his stay given the flow of airborne ash. That meant Obama would be in Indonesia for just 19 hours, still long enough to visit a famous mosque and deliver his speech.

Military party sweeping Myanmar election

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar’s military-backed party has so far captured 75 percent of the parliamentary seats contested in weekend elections, a senior party leader said Wednesday, following polling widely decried as manipulated and unfair.

The results point to an overwhelming victory. But there is little doubt about the outcome because the junta proxy Union Solidarity and Development Party fielded candidates in nearly every district, whereas the largest opposition party was able to contest only 164 of the 1,159 parliamentary seats in Sunday’s elections.

The government says the elections, the country’s first in

two decades, are a major step toward democracy, but critics including President Barack Obama have said they were neither free nor fair.

The polling also has sparked violence and some fears of an outright civil war among Myanmar’s ethnic minorities who make up some 40 percent of the population. Some have been fighting the central government since Myanmar gained independence from Great Britain in 1948.

Clashes starting Sunday between ethnic rebels and government troops prompted an exodus of about 20,000 refugees across the border in to Thailand. Many of them headed home Tuesday after the fighting at the Thai-Myanmar

border town of Myawaddy subsided. But about 1,000 still remained on Thai soil opposite the Three Pagoda Pass, another site of clashes in recent days.

The governor of Thailand’s Kanchanaburi province, Nataphon Wichienprerd, said the refugees feared renewed clashes in the Three Pagoda Pass area.

No official results of the elections have yet been announced.

But a leader in the military-backed USDP said that the party has won 878 seats contested in the two-chamber Parliament and 14 regional parliaments. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press, said ballot tallies were coming in slowly.

member the brutality of the time of Taliban rule but they feel they have no other options. They would rather have a government that is part Taliban than all Taliban.”

1,000 tiger parts seized in past decade: report

BANGKOK (AP)—More than 1,000 parts of tigers slain by poachers across Asia have been seized over the past decade, raising fears that the big cats are headed for extinction, says a new study by a key wildlife trade monitoring group. The report says most of the tiger parts—including skins, bones, skulls and penises—were seized in India, China and Nepal and were destined for use in traditional medicines, decorations and even good luck charms. A major trafficking route, uncovered in recent years, begins in India, home of half the world’s tigers, and ends in China where tiger parts are highly prized as purported cures for a range of ailments and as aphrodisiacs. Experts say China’s economic boom has helped fuel the illegal trade, with more Chinese able to afford the expensive tiger products.

World

Cholera surge feared in Haiti’s crowded capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Health workers feared a surge of cholera cases in the shantytowns and muddy tent camps of Haiti’s capital as suspected cases piled up Tuesday and a laboratory confirmed cases that originated in the overcrowded city.

Hundreds of people suffered the cholera symptoms of fever and diarrhea in hospitals and shacks built along the putrid waste canals of slums like Cite Soleil and Martissant.

At least 73 cholera cases had been confirmed among people living in Port-au-Prince, but nearly all those were infected outside the capital. Physicians with the aid group Doctors Without Borders reported seeing more than 200 city residents with severe symptoms at their facilities alone over the last three days.

Following Monday’s confirmation that a 3-year-old boy from a tent camp near Cite Soleil had contracted the disease before Oct. 31 without leaving the capital, the Pan-American Health Organization said the epidemic’s spread from river towns in the countryside to the nation’s primary urban center was a dangerous development.

At least two more capital-originated cases were confirmed Tuesday at the same hospital where the boy was treated.

Damage to Port-au-Prince’s already miserable pre-earthquake sanitation and drinking water systems make the city “ripe for the rapid spread of cholera,” Dr. Jon K. Andrus, the organization’s deputy director, told reporters Tuesday.

Port-au-Prince is estimated to be home to between 2.5 million and 3 million people,

about half of whom have been living in homeless encampments since the Jan. 12 earthquake ravaged the capital.

“We expect transmission to be extensive and we have to be prepared for it, there’s no question,” Andrus said. “We have to prepare for a large upsurge in numbers of cases and be prepared with supplies and human resources and everything that goes into a rapid response.”

A confirmed case of cholera had never been seen in this Caribbean country before last month, when it suddenly killed several dozen people and spread across the agricultural heartland of the Artibonite Valley. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the strain is most similar to those found in South Asia, but no formal investigations have been done to learn how the disease arrived in Haiti.

UN: Somali piracy outpaces efforts to stop it

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Piracy off the coast of Somalia is outpacing efforts to combat it and more is needed to attack the problem at its root by creating economic alternatives for young Somalis, a top U.N. official said Tuesday.

B. Lynn Pascoe, U.N. undersecretary-general for political affairs, said more than 438 crew and passengers and 20 ships are currently being held at sea off Somalia as pirates employ larger vessels and attack further off the coast to avoid stepped up patrols.

“The pirates are taking greater risks and seeking higher ransoms,” Pascoe said. “The problems would be worse if not for the very considerable

international anti-piracy efforts under way.”

The EU, NATO and regional navies are increasingly working together to patrol the Gulf of Aden—one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes crossed by about 20,000 vessels annually—and other waters off Somalia where pirates operate. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a report that pirates have expanded operations well into the Indian Ocean, up to 1,000 nautical miles from Somalia. Some pirates have even begun using a “mother ship” towing two or three skiffs to help launch attacks far off the coast against ever-larger freighters.

British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said Security Council members believe naval operations alone will not resolve the problem.

“It is also important to tackle the root causes,” he said, advocating increased security on land and alternative sources of income for Somalis.

Pascoe suggested rehabilitating existing coastal fisheries the construction of new ones as a way to create more jobs for Somalis.

“As long as piracy is lucrative, with ransom payments adding up to tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars, and other economic incentives so bleak, the incentives are obvious,” he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen wants much more US aid to fight terrorism

SAN’A, Yemen (AP)—Yemen wants far more military aid than the U.S. has promised in the fight against escalating terrorism—billions of dollars more than Washington has in mind. And yet Yemeni authorities have little to show for the significant Western aid that has already poured into the impoverished country. In fact, the al-Qaida offshoot that claimed responsibility for the failed plot to send mail bombs from Yemen to the U.S. appears more emboldened than ever. And Yemen’s government seems to feel more threatened by an increasingly restless secessionist rebellion in the south, where it has little control, than by militants linked to Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

Neglect threatens many of Italy’s cherished ruins

ROME (AP)—For all of Italy’s ancient wonders, the real wonder might be that so many are still standing, given the poor care they get. The collapse in Pompeii last week of a frescoed house where gladiators prepared for combat was the latest loss. The structure had survived the explosion of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. but apparently could not withstand modern neglect.

“We’re stunned when some walls fall down. But these are ruins not systematically maintained, so the miracle is that so few of them collapse,” said Andrea Carandini, a world-renowned archaeologist who leads a panel of professional consultants in the Cultural Ministry. Last spring, a huge segment of Nero’s fabled Golden Palace beneath Rome gave way, raining down pieces of vaulted ceiling in one of the galleries under a garden popular with strollers. Three years ago, a 20-foot (6-meter) section of ancient wall crumpled into a pile of bricks after days of heavy rain. The wall had been named after the third century emperor Aurelius, who built it to defend Rome against the first onslaught of barbarians.

New violence reported in Western Sahara

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—New clashes erupted in the Western Sahara between Moroccan security forces and local people seeking independence for the vast, resource-rich desert region, activists said. People in the regional capital used rocks and sticks in street battles with Moroccan police conducting house-to-house searches on Tuesday, said Brahim Ahmed, an activist for the native Saharawi people. “Every now and then you hear something, screams and everything,” he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Poll: Majority of Afghans back talks with Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Nearly all Afghans want their government to make peace with the Taliban despite their growing dislike for the insurgency, according to a survey funded in part by the U.S. government. The survey released Tuesday by the San Francisco-based Asia Foundation found that 83 percent of Afghan adults back negotiations with armed, anti-government groups, up from 71 percent last year. But it also said 55 percent of Afghans had no sympathy at all for the insurgency this year, up from 36 percent last year. Twenty-six percent of respondents said they had “a little sympathy” for the aims of the insurgency. Analysts said the survey reflected growing doubt that the government and its NATO allies can defeat the insurgency with military means and that after 30 years of war, some Afghans were willing to sacrifice some freedoms for the sake of peace. “The prospects for peace here in Afghanistan are very difficult,” said Haroun Mir, the director of the Afghanistan Center for Research and Policy Studies, a Kabul-based think tank. “People re-

Environment

Recycling bottles into ornaments



Glitter is sprinkled onto the bottle before the paint dries at The Geneva School in Winter Park, Florida.

MCT

By JEAN PATTESON
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—For weeks, students at The Geneva School in Winter Park, Fla., have been coming home splattered with paint and dusted with glitter.

It's one of the hazards of creating decorations for the holiday tree they plan to exhibit at the Orlando Museum of Art's annual Festival of Trees.

The decorations are all made from recycled soda and water bottles under the direction of art teacher Dale Wayne.

"We're up to our elbows in glue and glitter," says Wayne, leading a tour through the crowded art room, pointing

out the steps needed to create the colorful ornaments.

They are easy enough to make at home—if you don't mind a little mess, she says. After the bottles are washed and the labels removed, they are colored with acrylic paint, dipped in glitter and cut into fantastical shapes. Two or three are then glued or wired together, creating fantastical blossoms fit for Avatar's planet Pandora.

The theme of this year's Festival of Trees is "Red Hot for the Holidays," but these students are adding purple, green, gold and silver to their creations.

New this year is the Growing Forest, a collection of 4-foot-to-6-

foot, artificial trees with decorations themed to different settings—kitchen, child's room, beach house, mountain cabin.

Art teacher Dale Wayne offers these directions for recycling plastic bottles into decorations.

Materials:

2-liter soda bottles or water bottles
Embossing (heat) gun, optional
Rubbing alcohol
Acrylic paint
Scissors
Glitter
Wired floral picks
Hot glue suitable for gluing plastic

Painting:

Rinse bottle and remove label and cap.

Clean bottle with rubbing alcohol to make paint adhere better.

Paint bottle with acrylic paint

Roll bottle in glitter while paint is still wet

Cut the bottom off the bottle, then cut petals or spirals, starting at the bottom and working up toward the neck. If you cut a wide spiral, you can go back and cut up the center of the spiral, creating two springs.

Shaping:

Manipulate the petals or spirals by hand or with heat. By hand, bend the petals back and pinch at the base to

hold the shape. With a heat gun, hold the nozzle of the gun close to the edges of the petals or spirals, causing them to shrink and curl, creating a glass-like effect. Work in a well-ventilated area, preferably outdoors.

Finishing:

Nest two bottles together.

Thread a wired floral pick (available at craft stores) into the center of the bottles. Hot-glue the bottles together or use part of the pick to wire them together.

Hot-glue extra petals and embellishments, if desired.

Attach the ornament to your tree using the ends of the wired pick to wrap the ornament to the branch.

DO YOUR PART

Green labels you can trust

By TERRI BENNETT
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (CHARLOTTE, N.C.)

Are you a green shopper? Do you regularly seek out products that claim to be better for the planet? These days, it's getting harder and harder to know which products are truly better for you and the environment. Terms like "eco-friendly," "green," and even "natural" are not regulated and have no clearly defined standards. This means companies can use the terms to make their products look more environmentally friendly than they really are. It's a practice called greenwashing and it's a growing problem. So how do you know which labels you can trust? Here

CIL (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. It sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. Paper and wood products that carry the FSC label are made from wood taken from well-managed forests.

Biodegradable is one label that can fool you into thinking you're buying an eco-friendly product when you're not. Any product destined for the landfill is not going to biodegrade. Landfills are designed to keep moisture and oxygen out, which are necessary for



MCT

Marine Stewardship Council is the world's leading certification program for sustainable seafood. All seafood products carrying the MSC label have been caught or raised in a sustainable manner that protects species from over fishing.

are a few eco-labels with certification programs that are regulated and what you can expect them to mean.

USDA ORGANIC is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and means the item is produced without using antibiotics, synthetic hormones, genetic engineering and irradiation or sewage sludge. Organic foods are also minimally processed without using artificial ingredients or preservatives.

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC) is the world's leading certification program for sustainable seafood. All seafood products carrying the MSC label have been caught or raised in a sustainable manner that protects species from over fishing.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUN-

anything to break down or degrade.

There is good news on the way for shoppers in the form of revised marketing guidelines that could soon be approved by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Revisions to the "Green Guides" could dramatically change how far companies can go in making them appear green. It would tighten standards for words like "biodegradable" and others making your job as a green shopper easier. Visit DoYourPart.com/Columns to learn more about the proposed changes to the Green Guides or how to share your comments on the matter with the FTC.

Knowledge is power. Do Your Part and use your power to support green products with labels you can trust are better for you and the planet.

EPA, CBP work to enforce Clean Air Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection are collaborating to ensure that all imported vehicles and engines comply with the Clean Air Act requirements. In the past year, more than \$6.5 million worth of vehicles including motorcycles, dirt bikes, tractors, and generators were imported into the U.S. and found to be in violation of the Clean Air Act, according to EPA records.

"Importing vehicles and engines without proper pollution controls is bad for human health and the environment, and unfair to those companies that play by the rules," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Americans deserve products with emission controls that comply with our nation's environmental laws."

"CBP's partnerships with other government agencies and private industry are a critical link in the protection of the

American public, the economy, and the environment," said Don Yando, executive director for Commercial Targeting and Enforcement in CBP's Office of International Trade. "These partnerships enhance CBP's ability to more effectively focus on those goods that pose the greatest threat."

CBP officers identify shipments,

worth more than \$125,000.

The Clean Air Act requires most new vehicles and engines imported into the U.S. to have an emissions label and a corresponding EPA certificate of conformity stating that the vehicle or engine meets federal emissions requirements. Ensuring compliance with the CAA is important because it protects U.S. citizens from potentially harmful air emissions. Vehicles and engines emit carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Exposure to even low levels of ozone can cause respiratory problems, and repeated exposure can aggravate pre-existing respiratory diseases.

CBP, as the primary federal agency responsible for monitoring importations to the U.S., cooperates with over 40 federal agencies to play a critical role in assisting with the enforcement of U.S. law. (EPA)

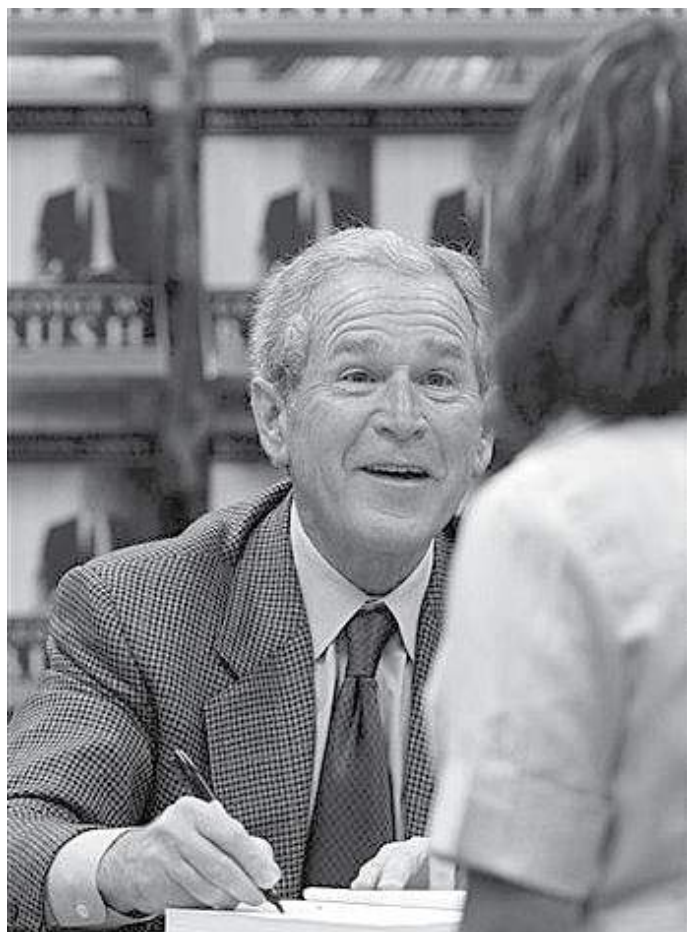
ON THE NET

- Information on EPA requirements for imported vehicles and engines:
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/imports/index.htm>
- Report potential environmental violations:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/>

with particular focus on companies that have previously violated the Clean Air Act, and put them on hold for inspection. EPA investigators, working closely with a special team of CBP officers, inspect the vehicles and engines. Vehicles and engines found to be uncertified are seized by CBP. In a recent seizure, EPA and CBP at the Port of Savannah confiscated illegal off-road motorcycles

Life & Style

Bush book praised in Dallas, criticized overseas



Former President George W. Bush talks with eight-year-old Whitney Grace Dodson, as he signs copies of his book, "Decision Points" at a store near his Dallas home, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010.

DALLAS (AP)—Autograph-seekers descended on a Dallas shopping center Tuesday as former President George W. Bush officially kicked off the release of his new memoir, receiving praise for his candor at a hometown bookstore even as his renewed defense of waterboarding as an interrogation tactic was greeted with derision overseas.

First in line at the Borders store about a mile from Bush's Dallas home were Terry and Tammy Jones of suburban Justin, who camped out overnight. They said when they told Bush of their wait, he said he'd sign their books "with admiration," shaking 53-year-old Terry Jones' hand and kissing his wife's.

"Eighteen hours for two seconds and a kiss on the hand," Tammy Jones, 52, said with a smile.

Terry Jones said he admired Bush because "when he makes a decision, he sticks with it."

But such steadfastness also prompted criticism Tuesday in Europe, where reports about Bush's memoir "Decision Points" focused on waterboarding.

In an interview in The Times of London, Bush said the tactic forced the alleged 9/11 mastermind to provide information that prevented attacks in London's Heathrow Airport and Canary Wharf

business district. Prime Minister David Cameron's office subsequently restated the British government's belief that waterboarding is illegal. Kim Howells, a former lawmaker who chaired the House of Commons' intelligence and security committee, expressed doubts about Bush's claim.

In France, the Le Monde newspaper noted an "absence of regret" in Bush's defense of waterboarding.

In a more lighthearted moment, Bush said in interview that aired Tuesday on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that writing the memoir "was an easy process."

"A lot of people don't think I can read, much less write," he joked.

As in the book, Bush also recounted to Winfrey the mistakes of his presidency, saying he still feels "sick" about the fact no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. His response to Hurricane Katrina could have been quicker, he said, and he acknowledged he didn't see the financial meltdown coming.

Bush, however, had nothing negative to say about President Barack Obama, whom Winfrey famously supported in 2008.

"I didn't like it when people criticized me," Bush said. "And so you're not going to see me out there chirping away (at Obama). And I want our president to succeed. I love our country."

Largely out of the public view since he left office, Bush is now vigorously promoting his book, with planned appearances across the country this week and as the Miami Book Fair International's featured author this weekend.

Bush even called in to conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh's radio program Tuesday, voicing support for an extension of his administration's tax cuts and denying reports he privately criticized fellow Republican John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate. But when asked his opinion about Arizona's controversial immigration legislation, Bush told Limbaugh: "you're trying to get me to make news."

"I don't want to make news, I want to sell books of course," Bush said laughing.

His memoir does offer revelations though, including his confirmation that the target of a 2007 Israeli airstrike was a Syrian nuclear reactor and suggestion he quietly approved the action. Bush also reveals Israel first asked the U.S. to bomb the site, but his administration refused.

In Israel, one of the few places Bush remained popular throughout his term, media coverage of the book focused on his warm praise for ex-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, support for Israel's tough crackdown on Palestinian militants in the last decade and animosity toward the late Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

More than 2,000 copies of "Decision Points" sold by the time Bush left the Dallas store at 11 a.m. Tuesday, said David Drake, a spokesman for the Random House Inc. imprint Crown Publishers. The former president was able to sign copies for 1,300 customers and provided signed bookplates for 500 others, said Drake, who added that the remainder of the crowd he estimated at 2,500 received instructions for getting a bookplate later.

Holly McKnight, a legally blind 36-year-old from Arlington who visited the Dallas event, said she was thrilled the audio book—read by Bush—was available the same day as the print edition.

Bush recounts Katrina and WMD mistakes on Winfrey

CHICAGO (AP)—George W. Bush recounted the mistakes of his presidency on Oprah Winfrey's talk show as he launched a book tour to promote his just-released memoir "Decision Points."

The former president said he still feels "sick about" the fact no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. His response to Hurricane Katrina could have been quicker, he said, and he should have landed Air Force One two days after the storm instead of viewing the destruction through the plane's window. And he said he didn't see the financial meltdown coming. The former president appeared Tuesday in a taped episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Writing the memoir, he said, "was an easy process" that has kept him busy.

"A lot of people don't think I can read, much less write," Bush joked on the program. The world is better off without Saddam Hussein, Bush said, even though the invasion that toppled the Iraqi leader was based on faulty intelligence about the existence of weapons of mass destruction.

"When we didn't find weapons I felt terrible about it, sick about it and still do, because a lot of the case in removing Saddam Hussein was based upon weapons of mass destruction," Bush said. He added that Hussein was "equally dangerous" without WMDs.

On Katrina, Bush said he didn't land Air Force One to view the submerged New Orleans up close because he was worried about taking resources away from rescue efforts.

"I shouldn't have flown over and looked. I made a mistake. I should have landed," Bush said. "I didn't realize a picture of me looking out would look like I didn't give a darn."

Continuing to discuss Katrina, Bush said he should have sent federal troops to help with security in New Orleans sooner, but was waiting for authority from Louisiana state government.

Bush flared against critics who called his Katrina response racist. Winfrey reminded him that rapper Kanye West said during a 2005 telethon for hurricane survivors that "George Bush doesn't care about black people."

"That really hurt," Bush said. "You can disagree with my politics, but don't ever accuse me of being a racist. ... I can see how the perception would be Bush didn't care, but to accuse me of being a racist is disgusting."

Bush said he wasn't alone in his failure to foresee the financial meltdown and defended his administration's decision to invest in failing banks in late 2008 to stabilize the financial system.

"I believe it helped save the country," Bush said.

Bush had nothing negative to say about President Barack Obama, whom Winfrey famously supported in 2008.

"I didn't like it when people criticized me," Bush said. "And so you're not going to see me out there chirping away (at Obama). And I want our president to succeed. I love our country."

Gwyneth Paltrow talks 'Country Strong' at premiere

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Actress Gwyneth Paltrow learned to play guitar and immersed herself in country music to pull off her latest role.

At the world premiere of "Country Strong" on Monday night in Nashville, Tennessee, Paltrow said it was important to get her character right.

"I think any time you do any role you want to be as authentic as possible, but obviously in this case with it being around the world of country music, you have a whole culture to really respect and portray properly. So, it was some pressure," she said.

To prepare for the role of troubled country star Kelly Canter, Paltrow watched a lot of concert DVDs and YouTube clips of country stars. She said she relied on advice from girlfriends who are singers more than from husband Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay.

"It was a lot of work, but it was really fun. It was worth it, very challenging," she said.

Paltrow plays a singer fresh out of rehab who's trying to pull her life, her career and her marriage together. Tim McGraw plays

her manager/husband, who seems to be more interested in fixing her career than their marriage. McGraw says the key to keeping a marriage healthy is to support each other.

"I'm always her biggest fan," said McGraw of his real life wife, Faith Hill, who also attended the premiere with him. "I think that we totally support each other. I think that's what a marriage is about, supporting each other in whatever you do, and whatever your goals and your dreams and your aspirations are. I think that's what it's all about."

Leighton Meester plays pageant queen-turned-country star character Chiles Stanton. She said it was easy to relate to her character, who looks up to McGraw and Paltrow.

"Tim McGraw, he's so funny and so cool and really just awesome, and of course, he really knows the ins and outs of the business," said Meester. "He showed me the ropes, told me what it was all about and really was like a mentor on and off screen. Gwyneth, of course, you rise to the occa-

sion, and she's so talented and gorgeous and effortless. It was really, really a joy."

Meester filmed the movie while her TV show, "Gossip Girl," was also in production. She said she would fly to Nashville on weekends, shoot, and then go back to New York.

"I fought for this role," she said. "The character is so different from anything I've done. She's so well written, has such a heart, very flawed, but really cool, and of course the music and performing aspect of it was a challenge as well, but it was really great."

McGraw was happy that most of the film was shot in Nashville. That meant he could sleep in his own bed every night.

"It's fantastic. Nashville's a great town. We love this town. We love everything about it. We love the people here. We think it's a great place to shoot movies, especially if we're in them so we can stay home," he said.

Hill quickly added, "But not too many."

McGraw laughed, knowingly: "Not too many. We don't want to overdo it."

"Country Strong" opens nationwide on Jan. 7.



Gwyneth Paltrow arrives for the premiere of the film "Country Strong" on Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn. Paltrow stars in the film with country music star Tim McGraw.

Tina Fey thanks Palin for her success

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mark Twain paid a surprise visit to the Kennedy Center on Tuesday night to honor Tina Fey with the nation's top humor prize that bears his name.

A mustached Alec Baldwin playing Twain said he thought he would be remembered for being a tender lover and was surprised to learn the prize honors top comics.

"Tina, well that's a funny name for a man," he said, shocked to hear it was a woman who had won because "their brains aren't shaped right."

A hundred years after the author's death, the woman famous for her Emmy Award-winning impression

of Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," accepted the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor—even though she feels her style is "so typically Austrian."



Fey

She thanked Palin for her success and said she has it on good authority that Sen. John McCain has a picture of Fey in his office and had been getting ideas long before he picked the former Alaska governor as his running mate.

"I guess what I'm saying is, this whole thing might be my fault," she said.

She also thanked the Kennedy Center, which she said will soon be known as "the tea party bowling alley and

rifle range."

"SNL" comics lined up to celebrate their colleague's work over nine seasons. They played clips from her time anchoring "Weekend Update" and some of the commercials she wrote, including a spoof on "mom jeans."

Amy Poehler recalled meeting Fey back when they were both part of The Second City improv group in Chicago in the 1990s.

"Our dreams were as big as our unshaped eyebrows," Poehler said.

The humor prize honors those who define contemporary comedy. Last year, it went to Bill Cosby. Organizers said Fey made her mark as the first female head writer on "SNL," not to mention her Palin impression and creating the NBC

comedy series "30 Rock," in which she stars with Baldwin. Tracy Morgan acted unimpressed—especially that Fey was the first woman to lead the writing team.

"I was the first male cast member who tried to force an unwanted kiss on the first female head writer," he said.

At 40, Fey is the youngest to be honored with the award that was created in 1998. She's also only the third woman to receive it after Lily Tomlin and Whoopi Goldberg.

Earlier, when the prize was announced, Fey hinted she didn't feel worthy, joking that she assumed Betty White was disqualified "for steroid use."

Not to be outdone, on the red carpet, the 88-year-old White

praised Fey's "intelligence and her sense of comedy."

Then she deadpanned, "Too bad she's not good looking."

White also took the stage to honor Fey. They also performed together on "SNL" in May for which White won rave reviews as host.

Steve Martin, who also has taken home the award, said Fey's win means he's been demoted. He said he loves Fey's parody of Palin, but even more, he said he loves to read her writing.

"Isn't it refreshing to find a comedian who is both really good and funny looking?" he said.

On the big screen, Fey recently starred with Steve Carell and former in "Date

Night" and is a featured voice in "Megamind," which debuted at No. 1 at last weekend's box office. Now she is working on her first book, a memoir due out next year. She lives in New York with her husband, Jeff Richmond, and their daughter.

"SNL's" Fred Armisen said one of his favorite things about Fey is her take on the world.

"She makes fun of people really well—under her breath. It's so funny, so sharp."

The show will be broadcast nationally Sunday on PBS. Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein said the event raised record \$1.3 million for center with high demand for tickets—especially from Alaska.

Actress Betty White made honorary Forest Ranger

WASHINGTON (AP)—Betty White has had countless roles over her award-winning career, but now she has a gig she's always wanted: "Forest Ranger."

The actress known for her roles on "The Golden Girls" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was made an honorary ranger Tuesday by the U.S. Forest Service. White, 88, said that as a young girl she wanted to be a forest ranger, but women weren't allowed to have the job.

On Tuesday, the Forest Service presented her with a badge and a ranger's Stetson hat, which she donned during a ceremony at the Kennedy Center. When Smokey Bear arrived mid-ceremony, White gave him a big bear hug and later asked to take the Forest Service mascot with her. She settled for a toy Smokey with its own small hat.

"Wilderness is harder and harder to find these days on this beautiful planet, and we're abusing our planet to the point of almost no return," White



AP

Actress Betty White clutches a Smokey the Bear stuffed doll and wears a U.S. Forest Ranger hat during a ceremony where she was named an Honorary Forest Ranger by the US Forest Service, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010.

said. "In my heart I've been a forest ranger all my life, but now I'm official."

White said some of her first memories as a child are riding in front of her father on a horse into the High Sierras. They would stay for three weeks and never see "another two-legged soul," she said. The family also went camping in Yellowstone National Park. White said her teachers eventually asked that she write essays on topics other than Yellowstone.

The Forest Service began in 1905, but very few women were employed during the early years. Today, women make up 38 percent of the Forest Service's workforce.

White, who recently won an Emmy for her guest-hosting stint on "Saturday Night Live," is in Washington for a ceremony to honor comedian Tina Fey, who is receiving the nation's top humor prize.

"It's a formal affair," she said. "Would it be all right if I wore the hat?"

Another celeb thrown off 'Dancing With the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kurt Warner's "Dancing With the Stars" stint is over, but the Super Bowl champ is still a crowd pleaser.

The studio audience and Warner's fellow contestants cheered "M-V-P! M-V-P!" as he was eliminated from the hit ABC show Tuesday.

Even judge Bruno Tonioli, who insulted Warner on Monday's episode by saying, "Obviously there are people that are better than you," praised the quarterback's gentlemanly nature.

"He has proven a true sportsman," Tonioli said before Warner was dismissed. "His attitude has been immaculate, incredible manners, and regardless of what happens, you have achieved a lot. You really are an American idol."

Warner embodied that attitude after learning his fate, thanking his partner, the show, the fans, his wife and their

seven children.

"I learned a long time ago that life isn't always about winning and losing competitions, but it's about relationships, it's about impacting people," he said. "And so I thank everybody at 'Dancing With the Stars' because it gave me an opportunity to impact people and build relationships, and that's really what it's all about."

Warner and his professional partner, Anna Trebunskaya, came into Tuesday's episode a point away from last place. Judges had praised the pair's waltz and chacha—"I've never seen you dance with so much charisma," judge Carrie Ann Inaba said—but the couple only collected 24 points out of 30 for each dance.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is ousted each week.

Tuesday's episode also

included performances by John Legend and The Roots, Taio Cruz, and two pint-sized couples (ages 9 and 10) dancing a jive accompanied by celebrated 9-year-old pianist Emily Bear.

Football star Jerry Rice and sportscaster Kenny Mayne, both previous "Dancing" contestants, discussed the remaining competitors during their mock sports segment, "Dance Center." Rice wore false eyelashes and a low-cut sequined top. Mayne also wore sequins.

Warner joins previously eliminated contestants Rick Fox, David Hasselhoff, Michael Bolton, Margaret Cho, Florence Henderson and reality stars Audrina Patridge and Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino.

Competing in Monday's semifinal round will be actors Jennifer Grey and Kyle Massey, singer-actress Brandy and Bristol Palin.

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Megamind

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:30 |
| Saturday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 |
| Sunday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Wednesday | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:30 |
| Thursday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 |

Will Farrell, Tina Fey
 Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

DreamWorks Animation presents this satirical take on the superhero genre focusing on a down-and-out super villain who has to learn how to get his groove back when he's left without an arch nemesis in this comedy from directors Cameron Hood and Kyle Jefferson.



Due Date

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:40 |
| Saturday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 |
| Sunday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:20 | 7:20 | |
| Wednesday | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:40 |
| Thursday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 |

Robert Downey, Jr., Zach Galifianakis
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Director Todd Phillips re-teams with his break-out Hangover star Zach Galifianakis for this road movie concerning a soon-to-be father (played by Robert Downey Jr.) and his cross-country trip to make it back in time for his baby's birth—with the only roadblock being the dubious passenger (Galifianakis) who's along for the ride. Michelle Monaghan and Jamie Foxx co-star in the Warner Bros./Legendary Pictures production.



The Social Network

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:55 |
| Saturday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 |
| Sunday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:25 | 7:25 | |
| Wednesday | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:55 |
| Thursday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 |

Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Timberlake
 Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The story behind the massive social networking site Facebook gets the big-screen treatment with this Columbia Pictures production scripted by The West Wing's Aaron Sorkin. The film will focus on Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg's ladder to the top after creating one of the biggest Internet sensations.



Paranormal Activity 2

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|-------|
| Friday | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:00 |
| Saturday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 |
| Sunday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:30 | 7:30 | |
| Wednesday | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:00 |
| Thursday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 |

Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
 Thriller • Rated R



Red

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:50 |
| Saturday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 |
| Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:15 | 7:15 | |
| Wednesday | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:50 |
| Thursday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 |

Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman
 Thriller, Action • Rated PG 13



Easy A

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | 4:10 | 7:10 | 9:45 |
| Saturday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 |
| Sunday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:10 | 7:10 | |
| Wednesday | 4:10 | 7:10 | 9:45 |
| Thursday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 |

Emma Stone, Penn Badgley
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Nanny McPhee Returns

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:35 |
| Saturday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 |
| Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 |
| Monday & Tuesday | 4:05 | 7:05 | |
| Wednesday | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:35 |
| Thursday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 |

Emma Thomson, Maggie Gyllenhaal
 Comedy • Rated PG

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'Twilight' leads People's Choice Awards nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Twilight Saga" has a chance to eclipse the competition at the 2011 People's Choice Awards.

Nominations were announced Tuesday, and the vampire love story and its stars racked up a leading eight bids.

The film is up for favorite movie and favorite drama, and stars Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner are nominated for favorite on-screen team. Pattinson and Lautner are also nominated individually for favorite movie actor, Stewart is up for favorite movie actress, and she and Pattinson are also nominated for favorite movie star under 25.

Other multiple nominees in the movie category include Robert Downey Jr., who's up for favorite actor, favorite action star and favorite on-screen team with Don Cheadle; "Iron Man 2," nominated for favorite movie and action movie; and "Inception," in the running for favorite movie, favorite drama and favorite on-screen team for stars Leonardo diCaprio, Joseph



In this film publicity image released by Summit Entertainment, Kristen Stewart, left, and James Pattinson are shown in a scene from, "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse."

Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page, Tom Hardy and Dileep Rao.

Favorite TV drama nominee "Grey's Anatomy" led the television category, with individual acting nods for stars Patrick Dempsey and Sandra Oh.

Dempsey, Oh and co-star Ellem Pompeo were also nominated for favorite TV doctor.

In the music category, Eminem, Carrie Underwood, Katy Perry, Beyonce, P!nk, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga were

all multiple nominees.

Fans can vote for the winners online until Dec. 7. The People's Choice Awards will be presented Jan. 5, 2011, at the Nokia Theatre and broadcast on CBS.

Italian-American group calls for VH1 show to end

HADDONFIELD, N.J. (AP)—Fresh off a successful push for minor changes to "Jersey Shore," a New Jersey-based Italian-American group called Tuesday for VH1 to pull the plug on its show "My Big Friggin' Wedding." UNICO National says the show is a "big racist stereotype of Italian-Americans."

Andre DiMino, the Fairfield, N.J.-based group's chief media executive calls the cast the "worst bunch of bad-acting, insipid individuals portraying themselves as trashy, drunken, low-class, bimbos and buffoons."

The story lines follow five

couples as they plan their weddings. Most of the cast members are Italian-American.

The show began airing last month.

During the long run of "The Sopranos" on HBO, UNICO complained about the way it portrayed Italian-Americans.

And since last year, UNICO has campaigned against "Jersey Shore," another show about misbehaving, self-obsessed young people that is on MTV.

The producers of that show have agreed to cut back on shots of the Italian flag and not refer in promos to the cast members as "guidos."

DiMino said the group sometimes worries that it's helping attract more attention to shows it would rather people didn't watch.

"There's no question that there's a double-edged sword," DiMino said. "When you have such a blatant act of this type of stereotyping, it needs to be called out."

DiMino said that if VH1 doesn't respond, he'll make his group's case to the show's advertisers.

Neither VH1 nor 495 Productions, which makes the show, had an immediate response on Tuesday.

Conan's first night whips rivals in viewership

NEW YORK (AP)—Conan O'Brien was welcomed back to television by more than 4.1 million viewers, while his winning numbers had minimal effect on his late-night opponents.

The former host of "The Tonight Show," who left NBC eight months ago, returned on Monday with a new talk show, "Conan," premiering on basic-cable network TBS.

In the 11 p.m. Eastern hour, O'Brien's opening night throt-

tled his direct rivals on Comedy Central. "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" was seen by 1.3 million viewers, followed by "The Colbert Report" with 1 million.

But the curiosity factor clearly brought new viewers to the scene. Even against the debut of "Conan," the "Daily Show" audience dropped by just 200,000 viewers from its season-to-date average for Monday episodes. Viewership

for "Colbert" dropped by only 150,000 from its season-to-date average.

Conan beat Jay Leno, the host who reclaimed the "Tonight Show" chair from him. Starting at 11:35 p.m. Eastern, "Tonight" attracted 3.5 million viewers. But "Tonight," which overlaps with "Conan" by 25 minutes, was down by just 100,000 viewers. Season-to-date, "Tonight" is averaging 3.6 million viewers, according to the Nielsen Co.

Travolta, Martha Stewart among NJ Hall nominees

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—John Travolta, Martha Stewart and Tony Bennett are among 30 nominees to the New Jersey Hall of Fame Class of 2011.

Rounding out the entertainment category are Michael Douglas, Bruce Willis, Queen Latifah and jazz guitarist John "Bucky" Pizzarelli.

Residents have until Jan. 3 to vote online at NJHallofFame.org for their favorites from the fields of history, entertainment, enterprise and sports. There's also a general category for educators, military leaders and politicians. The top vote-getters will be inducted next spring.

Other nominees include New York Giants owner Wellington Mara (MEHR'-uh), skating champ Dick Button, former Govs. Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean (kayn) and poet Allen Ginsberg.

Nominated historical figures include World War II hero John Basilone, former President Grover Cleveland and Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher.

Survivors' day offers comfort to families of suicide victims

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My adult son committed suicide. He was an alcoholic with many problems. Every year around the time of his death I become very depressed and emotional. Is this normal? Members of my family think I should "get over it."

EMOTIONAL MOM
IN THE SOUTHWEST

Dear Abby

DEAR EMOTIONAL MOM: The members of your family are mistaken. Your feelings are perfectly normal.

The problem of suicide in America is no secret. It has been in the headlines repeatedly, and more than 30,000 people take their lives annually. Because of the shame and stigma that are unfortunately still attached to suicide, many people are left to suffer in silence.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), more than 80 percent of us will lose someone to suicide at some point during our lives. This is why the organization sponsors National Survivors of Suicide Day every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. (This year it's November 20.) It's a day when surviving parents, children, siblings, spouses and friends gather at locations from Nashville to Nepal and take comfort in being with others who know what it means to lose a loved one to suicide.

Readers, to find out more information, visit the foundation's website at www.AFSP.org. It lists many excellent resources including a book I especially like titled, "Why Suicide?" by Eric Marcus. Published by Harper One, it's compassionate, informative, heartfelt and a must-read for anyone whose life has been touched by suicide.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I relocated to live with "Zack," my boyfriend of one year. Now that I'm here I'm afraid that I adore him more than I am adored. I'm not the clingy type, but Zack never cuddles. Sex is not discussed—and never "my" way.

Most things are like that. He isn't abusive -- just uncompromising, lazy and selfish. To make matters worse, we share the house with a family member of his who has the same spoiled teenager attitude.

I'm the one who cooks, cleans, shovels snow, takes care of the dog and has the guts to call the landlord about issues. I have asked Zack to help and to ask for help from his relative. He excuses his relative from responsibility and will help me with that one request—at that moment only. They have no regular chores. I experimented with the bathroom wastebasket—it overflowed for weeks because I didn't empty it.

I am growing resentful and angry. If I say anything, Zack rolls his eyes at me like I'm an idiot and asks me how I come up with all the "stuff" I gripe about. I feel like I'm the parent of two teenagers with overdeveloped ideas of entitlement, even though we all have an equal stake in this house.

Is there a different approach I can use, or should I do what I have been considering for a while—throw in the towel and move out?

READY TO BAIL IN SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

DEAR READY TO BAIL: Go ahead and bail. Zack and his relative are treating you like an unpaid housemaid and no one's girlfriend. The longer you tolerate this situation, the longer it will continue. So start packing. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

■ ■ ■

DEAR VETERANS: Today is Veteran's Day and your numbers are growing. Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you—as well as those men and women who are still on active duty—for your service to our nation. I salute you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Fierstein to replace Douglas Hodge in 'La Cage'

NEW YORK (AP)—How do you replace Tony Award-winning Douglas Hodge in the revival of "La Cage aux Folles"? One way is with the musical's author. Producers say Harvey Fierstein, who won a 1984 Tony for writing the show's book, will slip into the role of Albin after Hodge leaves on Feb. 13. Kelsey Grammer also will leave the show that day. Fierstein, who has won Tonys for his work in "Hairspray" and "Torch Song Trilogy," will appear in

a 12-week run opposite a co-star yet to be announced. Fierstein says it will be a challenge playing the part decades after writing it, but joked: "I know how to reach the author for rewrites."

Johanna Skibsrud wins Canadian literature award

TORONTO (AP)—Johanna Skibsrud, the daughter of a Vietnam war veteran who wrote a fictional book about a veteran, has won one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards. Skibsrud won the

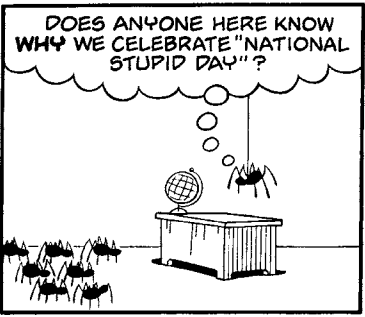
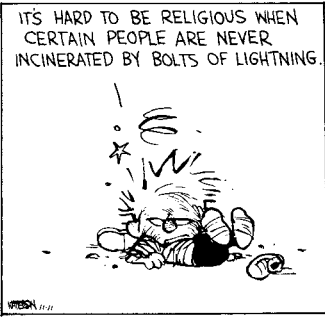
Scotiabank Giller Prize on Tuesday night for her book "The Sentimentalists." The novel tells the story of daughter's quest to learn the truth about her dying father's life. Skibsrud thanked her late father for sharing his stories with her. Some bookstores in Canada have been unable to get the title in stock because it was hand-printed by a small Canadian publishing company that has refused to outsource to keep up with demand. The C\$50,000 prize created in 1994 honors Canadian fiction. Past winners have included Margaret Atwood, Mordecai Richler and Alice Munro.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



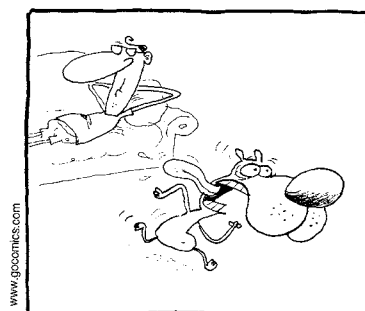
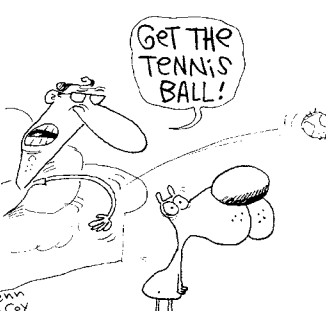
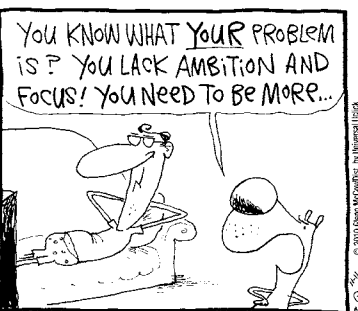
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Quarrel

5 At the home of

9 — Beta Kappa

12 Mark's replacement

13 Take on

14 Snitch

15 High school VIP

17 Anger

18 Dire

19 Jeans material

21 "People" counterpart

22 Handed out

24 Benedict, e.g.

27 Started

28 Ruler's length

31 Atmosphere

32 "Hail, Caesar!"

33 Coffee shop item

34 Post-diet

36 Hr. fraction

37 Undo a dele

DOWN

1 Calendar abbr.

2 Kitten's sound

3 Met

4 Lan-guage

5 Stylish

6 With it

7 Historic time

8 F. Scott Fitzgerald's wife

9 Transfer from computer to paper

10 Mata —

11 Two-some, in a gossip column

16 Opposite of "trans-"

20 Sprite

22 Mephi-stopheles

23 Paradise

24 Faux —

25 Lubricant

26 Cinder-ella, ultimately

27 Tibetan monk

29 Trancar load

30 Stick with a kick

35 Singer Davis

37 Fills with determination

39 Novem-ber stone

40 Illustrations

41 Pop

42 Dumb-struck

43 Summer-time pest

44 Mine, in Marseille

45 Bridge

46 Salinger girl

49 Actress Sara

50 Apr. addressee

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leonardo DiCaprio, 36; Calista Flockhart, 46; Demi Moore, 48; Stanley Tucci, 50

Happy Birthday: You have plenty to gain this year but don't neglect your health, well-being or a relationship that means a lot to you. You will see greater returns if you are patient and practical, working strategically toward your goal. Surround yourself with people who get what you are trying to do. Your numbers are 10, 18, 22, 24, 35, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take action, respond quickly and don't let anyone bully you into something that doesn't sit right with you. An emotional issue must not be allowed to hinder a decision you need to make. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a close look at what's being offered. Before you make an agreement, make sure there isn't something that needs changing. Someone will try to mislead you with charm and fast talk. Stay on top of your game. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be charged up and ready to go. Set your target and make your move. Your fast-paced, aggressive action will give you the upper hand when it comes to getting your way. A creative idea will be successful. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Financial discussions will pay off in terms of what you can earn or invest in a project that catches your interest. Taking care of money matters will allow you greater freedom to make decisions that need to be addressed on the spot. Make your move. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Address the changes that need to be taken care of at home. Redecorate or make your surroundings user-friendly. Interacting with progressive and productive individuals will aid you in advancing, as well. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may feel like throwing your weight around verbally but it isn't likely to unfold the way you anticipate. Arguments are apparent if you are abrupt or controlling. Rethink and reconsider. Focus more on having fun. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Talks will pay off if dealing with friends, neighbors or relatives. However, problems at home will prevail if you don't compromise. Concentrate on expanding a creative idea or working on a self-improvement project that will bring you greater confidence. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There is plenty to be hopeful about but first you must believe in yourself and your skills. Broaden your awareness and the possibilities will be endless. Sudden and unexpected change will put you in a prime position. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your fiery attitude will bring about changes that will not be that easy to control. Someone from your past will cause problems for you personally or professionally. Don't take chances, but listen carefully. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't jump to conclusions when staying calm and letting others react will position you

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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better. There is money to be made if you readress and update old ideas or projects. Embrace change and opportunity will present itself. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A secret must be kept if you want to avoid a costly problem. You need to make a decision so you aren't accused of standing in the way of progress. It's in your best interest to take part in what's going on around you instead of ignoring the inevitable. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid making promises or signing up for something that is probably a waste of time. Be creative with your finances and you will be able to come up with a plan that will increase your earning power and lower your overhead. *****

Birthday Baby: You are practical but adaptable if something appears to be better than what you already have. You strive for knowledge and don't leave anything to chance.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | | | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | 9 | | 1 | | | 2 | |
| | | 6 | | 9 | | 8 | | | |
| | | | 8 | 7 | 5 | | | | |
| | | 4 | | 3 | | 1 | | | |
| | 7 | | 3 | | 8 | | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 2 | | | | | | 9 | 1 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/11

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STUMPED?

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|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
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| • 3-Liner with picture | \$24 | \$42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | \$36 | \$57 |

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Millsap's 46 help Jazz stun Heat in OT



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade had 39 points. LeBron James had a triple-double. The Miami Heat had a 22-point lead.

The Utah Jazz were unimpressed on all counts.

Paul Millsap scored a career-high 46 points—11 coming in the final 28 seconds of regulation as Utah rallied from eight down—and the Jazz stunned the Heat 116-114 in overtime on Tuesday night.

"I guess when it rains, it pours," Millsap said.

Utah never led by more than three points, which didn't matter. The Jazz had more than enough at the end, and Francisco Elson's free throws with 0.4 seconds left won it.

"At some point in the year, unfortunately, we have to go through something like this," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

It's still early, but Utah can make an argument for being the NBA's comeback kings so far. The Jazz rallied from 18 points down to beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night, and dug themselves an even bigger hole this time around, trailing by 22 in the second quarter and 51-32 at halftime while getting run out of Miami's building.

Deron Williams had 21 points and 14 assists before fouling out late in regulation, and Andrei Kirilenko scored 16—including a 3-pointer with 1:50 remaining, after which the Jazz wouldn't trail again.

"It's speechless, to be down like that to a team like this and to come out with a win," Millsap said. "We clawed our way out of it. But this says a lot about our team."

Wade's 39 came on 12-of-23 shooting. James finished with 20 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds for his 29th triple-double, the seventh that came in a loss. Chris Bosh scored 17, James Jones added 11 and Carlos Arroyo had 10 for the Heat, who gave up a staggering 84 points after halftime.

"I think we panicked a little bit as a group," Wade said.

Miami still led 98-90 with a half-minute left before Millsap caught fire: He hit a trio of 3-pointers, then grabbed the rebound of CJ Miles' miss from the left corner and scored at the end of regulation to give Utah another 5 minutes.

"I'd never seen him hit a 3 before," Bosh said.

Very few people had.

Millsap, who finished 19 of 28 from the field, had been a 2-for-20 shooter



Utah Jazz power forward Paul Millsap goes up for a shot against Miami Heat power forward Chris Bosh (1) during overtime in an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 in Miami.

from 3-point range in his career—then went 3 for 3 against Miami, all with the outcome in the balance. Add a 3-pointer from Williams, and Utah scored 14 points in the last 28 seconds of regulation.

"The man was on fire," Wade said.

Does Millsap have the green light?

"He does now," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said.

Talk about being an unlikely hero. In eight previous games against Miami, Millsap had averaged 6.9 points. He became the eighth player to score at least 46 points against the Heat, a list that also includes Michael Jordan, James, Willie Burton, Jamal Crawford, Vince Carter, Alex English and Gilbert Arenas.

"He got easy buckets," Bosh said. "A lot of easy buckets."

The Heat missed five shots in the final two minutes of overtime that either

would have tied the game or given them the lead, including Eddie House's desperation jumper at the buzzer. Spoelstra said the play was designed for James to get a lob at the rim, an option Utah took away.

"Jerry Sloan is one of the best coaches we have in our league," James said. "He kind of figured out what we wanted to do."

It was the second time in a week Miami lost at the end, and in both games, it wasn't Wade, James or Bosh taking the last shot—but House, who misfired on 3-pointers both on Tuesday and at the end of a three-point loss last week in New Orleans.

"We came out flat in the third quarter," Bosh said. "We didn't have the sense of urgency that we needed. We had a chance to put them away and we didn't."

Given the way things began, Utah had to feel fortunate just to

have a chance.

The Jazz missed 10 straight shots in the opening quarter, allowing the Heat to peel off a 15-0 run—matching Miami's biggest of the young season—and run out to a quick 22-7 lead. Miami led by as many as 22 in the second quarter, and still were comfortably up 67-51 when James made a layup with 4 minutes left in the third quarter.

Utah outscored Miami 65-47 the rest of the way. The Jazz took an 81-79 lead on a jumper by Williams midway through the fourth, before Wade scored five points in a quick 9-0 run that restored some Heat breathing room.

Temporarily, that is.

Millsap saved his best for last. And he wasn't surprised that he got hot from beyond the arc.

"I practice that every day," Millsap said. "We have our 3-point shooting contests. I win a few."

Hornets 101, Clippers 82

In New Orleans, the hosts remained unbeaten this season by comfortably downing Los Angeles.

New Orleans' Willie Green scored 19 points and fellow reserve guard Jarrod Bayless added 15. With Chris Paul on the bench, Bayless and Green took over in the fourth quarter, combining to score the Hornets' first 19 points in the period to put New Orleans up 89-69.

New Orleans is off to a franchise-best 7-0 start under rookie coach Monty Williams.

Al-Farouq Aminu scored 20 for the Clippers, who played most of the game without starting center Chris Kaman after he sprained an ankle.

Pacers 144, Nuggets 113

In Indianapolis, Indiana came close to a perfect shooting record in the third quarter as it racked up a huge score against Denver.

The Pacers made their first 20 shots of the third quarter, coming within 1.9 seconds of a perfect period when Josh McRoberts missed a 3-point attempt.

Mike Dunleavy scored 24 of his 31 points in the Pacers' 54-point period. Indiana, which shot 64 percent overall, led 113-76 at the end of the third quarter.

Darren Collison scored 29 points for the Pacers, who set league season highs for points, field goals made and field-goal percentage.

Ty Lawson led Denver with 19 points.

Cavaliers 93, Nets 91

In Newark, Antawn Jamison and An-

thon Parker hit late 3-pointers to lift Cleveland over New Jersey.

Cleveland made five of its nine 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, none being bigger than the ones by Jamison and Parker in the final 2:28.

The Cavaliers got 52 points from the reserves, with J.J. Hickson leading a balanced attack with 18 points.

Travis Outlaw scored a season-high 27 points for the Nets, who have lost five in a row overall and nine in a row to Cleveland.

Bucks 107, Knicks 80

In Milwaukee, the host broke out of an early-season shooting slump with a big win over New York.

Brandon Jennings scored 19 points and Drew Gooden added 17 points and eight rebounds for the Bucks, who shot 68 percent in the first quarter to grab the lead and never trailed in defeating the Knicks for the fourth straight time.

Milwaukee, which came in averaging an NBA-worst 89.6 points, passed that point total by the end of the third quarter. The final point total was a season high.

Amare Stoudemire led the Knicks with 19 points.

Trail Blazers 100, Pistons 78

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 19 points and 17 rebounds to power Portland past Detroit.

Nicolas Batum added 17 points for the Blazers who missed three-time All-Star Brandon Roy for much of the first half with a leg injury.

The Pistons, who dropped to 0-4 on the road, were led by Rodney Stuckey with 17 points.

Lakers 99, Timberwolves 94

In Los Angeles, the hosts moved to an 8-0 record for just the third time in franchise history after beating Minnesota.

Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and Pau Gasol added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who matched the 1987-88 team for the second-best start in club history. Only the 1997-98 Lakers were better, starting 11-0.

Yet Los Angeles never pulled away from the rebuilding Timberwolves, who lost their sixth straight. Kevin Love had 23 points and a career-high 24 rebounds for Minnesota, which lost its 12th straight to the Lakers despite getting within two points in the final minutes.

Evans: Players don't agree with Stern's numbers

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta Hawks veteran Maurice Evans said Tuesday NBA players aren't buying Commissioner David Stern's recent call for a one-third reduction in players' salaries.

Stern said last month the league wants player costs to drop \$750-800 million.

"We definitely don't agree with those numbers," Evans said. "We feel like the game is really at a great place."

Evans, a vice president on the NBA Players Association executive committee, said the two sides may not be able make any substantial progress in the NBA labor talks until the February All-Star break, when all players are avail-

able to return to the negotiations.

He said the league's relationship with fans would be damaged by a lockout, especially in the tough economy.

"If we have a lockout, it's just going to set us back," Evans said while distributing 1,000 Thanksgiving turkeys to Atlanta-area families in a program sponsored by the NBPA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "With the state the economy is in, fans are not going to want to keep getting slapped in the face with players and NBA teams, as fortunate as we are financially to even be playing a game for a living, to keep throwing it in people's face that we're not making enough money,

whether it be the league or whether it be the players."

Evans, a seven-year veteran currently recovering from offseason knee surgery, said he has attended all the negotiating sessions open to players.

He called Stern's tough talk "just a negotiation tactic."

"The tone just depends on the perspective, our tone or their tone," Evans said. "Obviously in Stern's words right now we are far apart, but who's to say we'll still be far apart in June or July of this year?"

Evans predicted there will be progress in February "because that's a time period in which a lot of heavy hitters

per se will be able to come in."

"Everybody will be able to be there and hopefully we'll be able to make some headway," he said.

League owners are seeking major changes to the current CBA that expires June 30. Deputy commissioner Adam Silver said the league has told the union that owners project league-wide losses of about \$340-350 million this season.

Billy Hunter, the executive director of the players association, has said the league's stance could lead to a work stoppage.

Evans wouldn't rate the odds of a lockout.

"We don't want to encourage a lockout at all," he said.

Evans said some teams' finances have been hurt by bad decisions.

"What we do believe is with the current system in place there's enough restraints within the system that they can police themselves," Evans said. "The system has proven to work that we have in place. Hypothetically, if a GM has approved a bad contract, yes it's going to reflect poorly on your franchise."

Evans and Hawks teammate Etan Thomas both distributed turkeys Tuesday as part a campaign sponsored by the NBA Players Association. During the campaign, players will distribute turkeys to more than 8,000 families in NBA cities.

Ichiro gets 10th Gold Glove in row, Jeter wins 5th



NEW YORK (AP)—Ichiro Suzuki won his 10th straight Gold Glove for a full season of fielding excellence. Mark Buehrle won

again, perhaps clinching his spot with an acrobatic play on opening day.

Derek Jeter, well, his selection is likely to set off another loud round of dispute over whether the award is relevant anymore.

Rawlings announced the American League honors Tuesday. Managers and coaches vote for players in their leagues and can't pick players on their own teams.

Also chosen were first baseman Mark Teixeira and second baseman Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees; third baseman Evan Longoria and outfielder Carl Crawford of the Tampa Bay Rays; Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer and Seattle outfielder Franklin Gutierrez.

The NL awards will be announced Wednesday.

Suzuki tied the AL record for Gold Gloves by an outfielder shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Al Kaline. The Seattle right fielder has won every year he's been in the big leagues.

The overall record for outfielders is held by Willie Mays and Roberto Clemente with 12 each. The awards started in 1957, so there's no telling how many Mays, Clemente or others might have won before then. Angels outfielder Torii Hunter's streak of nine in a row ended this season.

Jeter won for the fifth time at shortstop—at 36, the New York Yankees captain is the oldest AL shortstop to win the Gold Glove since Luis Aparicio was the same age in 1970. Only Ozzie Smith, Omar Vizquel, Aparicio and Mark Belanger have won more total Gold Gloves at shortstop than Jeter.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive the Gold Glove award, especially since this recognition comes from managers and coaches for whom I have a great deal of respect. It is particularly gratifying to be recognized for defense, as it is something I take a lot of pride in and am constantly working to improve," Jeter said in a statement.

Jeter was charged with just six errors and had a career-high .989 fielding percentage, both best among full-time AL shortstops.

But modern fielding charts and rankings consistently put Jeter in the bottom half of their ratings. Two websites that study glove work—<http://www.fangraphs.com> with its Ultimate Zone Rating and <http://www.fieldingbible.com>—listed Chicago's Alexei Ramirez as the top-fielding AL shortstop with Jeter nowhere close to even middle-of-the-pack status.

Ramirez made 20 errors and had a .974 fielding percentage.

"I think a lot of errors he got were plays that others wouldn't have gotten to," Buehrle said on a conference call. "I think he was deserving."

"I don't see Derek play every day," he said. "I think there are a lot of guys who could've won it."

Jeter's range seemed to noticeably decline—he's never been the best at getting to balls up the middle. This season, it seemed more grounders into the hole got through, too, with third baseman Alex Rodriguez ranging less and less to his left.

For years, some fans have viewed the Gold Gloves as mostly a popularity contest, even suggesting that a player's performance at the plate helped draw extra attention to his glove. Jeter's wins have often served as a lightning rod for that debate.

Serious questions about the Gold Gloves have stirred for more than a decade, growing ever since Rafael Palmeiro won the award at first base in 1999. He played there only 28 games for Texas that season, spending most of the year as a designated hitter.

Buehrle was an easy choice for his second Gold Glove—he became the first pitcher with multiple no-hitters and Gold Gloves on his resume. He had a 1.000 fielding percentage in 50 chances this year and led major league pitchers with a career-high 11 pickoffs.

The lefty was the leading candidate from Day One, with his play in a 6-0 win over Cleveland. Buehrle stuck out his leg and deflected Lou Marson's hard one-hopper into foul territory beyond the first-base line, scrambled off the mound and used his glove to flip the ball between his legs to get the out.

"I had people saying all year that the one play won it," Buehrle said.

Gutierrez, who plays center field, Crawford and Cano also won for the first time. Crawford became a free agent when the season ended and is unlikely to re-sign with Tampa Bay.

Teixeira became a four-time winner, Mauer won his third Gold Glove and Longoria earned his second.

Gutierrez and Suzuki each receive \$50,000 bonuses. Buehrle, Crawford, Longoria and Mauer get \$25,000 apiece.



In combo of 2010 file photos, the 2010 American League Gold Glove winners are shown. They are, top row from left, Chicago White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle, New York Yankees second baseman Robinson Cano, and Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Carl Crawford; middle row from left, Seattle Mariners outfielder Franklin Gutierrez, Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, and Rays third baseman Evan Longoria; bottom row from left, Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer, Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, and Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira.

Bengals Ochocinco reduced to fuming nonfactor



CINCINNATI (AP)—Chad Ochocinco is tired of being a sidekick.

When the Cincinnati Bengals signed receiver Terrell Owens at the start of training camp, Ochocinco was content playing "Robin" to T.O.'s "Batman," saying he was glad to stay in the background to help the team.

Not any longer.

Ochocinco went out of his way to call attention to himself during a 27-21 loss to Pittsburgh on Monday night, wearing bright gold cleats in a look-at-me gesture that caught everyone's eye. He also vented his frustration as the game went along and he got shut down, exchanging words with quarterback Carson Palmer and coach Marvin Lewis.

Lewis yanked him from the game briefly to help him cool down. Ochocinco finished with only one catch, while Owens had 10 catches and two more touchdowns.

"Yeah, he was upset," Lewis said. "But we've got to play football. If he's not going to get it done right, he's got to come take an opportunity to freshen up his mind and get right back in the game."

Right now, Ochocinco's mind seems to be about as out of sorts as his team's season. The loss dropped the defending AFC North champions to 2-6, essentially scuttling their season at the midpoint. They've got two more months of playing it out, eight more chances for

McNabb: 'Hilarious' that he doesn't know offense

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donovan McNabb says it's "hilarious" to think that he doesn't know the Washington Redskins' offensive play book. Or that he has trouble calling plays in the huddle.

"That is hilarious to me. That is really funny to me," McNabb said Tuesday during his weekly appearance on ESPN980. "For everyone who may not have heard any of this, it's probably a shock to them."

Those words aside, the six-time Pro Bowl quarterback spent most of his radio time trying to downplay the fallout from his benching in the final minutes of a loss to the Detroit Lions. Not surprisingly, McNabb said he was tired of the whole thing.

"It's over to me, and I just look to move on," he said.

Coach Mike Shanahan has offered varying explanations of the decision

to bench McNabb, initially saying that backup Rex Grossman had a better grasp of the team's 2-minute offense. Shanahan later said McNabb's sore hamstrings had kept the team from practicing the hurry-up attack and that he was concerned McNabb didn't have the "cardiovascular endurance" to run it as effectively as Grossman.

McNabb said he was able to clear the air in talks with Shanahan and offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. He said he was satisfied with what he heard.

"Yes, I'm satisfied," McNabb said. "You get what you ask for, and after that you put it behind you and move on."

McNabb remains the starter for the Redskins (4-4), who had a bye Sunday after the loss to Detroit. They resume play Monday night against McNabb's old team, the Philadelphia Eagles.

out. I was emotional, but in no way did it affect what we were doing out there on the field."

The Steelers (6-2) have a history of getting under Ochocinco's skin. He's played them 19 times, but has only

three touchdown catches and a pair of 100-yard games. In 14 of the 19 games, Ochocinco has been limited to five or fewer catches.

They used similar tactics again on Monday night, giving Ochocinco double coverage while Owens—lined up next to slot receiver Jordan Shipley—got different treatment. Owens finished with 10 catches for 141 yards. Ochocinco had his only catch - for 15 yards - on the Bengals' last drive.

"It felt like it'd be easier to get Ochocinco out of the game because he was the single-receiver side guy," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday. "You had some route-combination issues when you're talking about T.O. That's probably been the case with most people who've played them."

At age 36, Owens is having a career year. His 55 catches for 770 yards and seven touchdowns put him among the league's elite and on pace to top his career highs for catches (100) and yards (1,451). He's also on pace to break Ochocinco's club record for yards receiving in a season.

Ochocinco has only 40 catches for 473 yards and two touchdowns, subpar numbers for the six-time Pro Bowl player. He hadn't complained about his lack of catches—all the defensive attention helped Owens get open—until he became an afterthought in the national spotlight on Monday night.

He made his first catch late in the

third quarter for an 8-yard gain, then slammed the ball to the ground in emphasis. The gesture was flagged for delay of game, and the reception was nullified by right tackle Andre Smith's holding penalty earlier in the play.

Ochocinco's increasing displays of frustration prompted Lewis to pull him from the game for a sideline chat.

"It was just him telling me to keep my head up, that's all," Ochocinco said.

Palmer threw to Ochocinco six times without success, trying to get him the ball on deep routes and short ones as well. The two of them also had words as the frustration mounted. In the locker room after the game, Palmer spent time talking to the receiver privately.

"It's just a frustrating thing for him," Palmer said. "He wants to catch the ball and he wants to make an impact in the game. Unfortunately, he was unable to do that. He's an emotional player and I'm an emotional player. That's part of what happens in this game. I love his competitiveness."

After the game, Owens lobbied for the coaches to find a way to get his sidekick more involved.

"I think that's up to the offensive coaching staff," Owens said. "Chad is a great talent, and somehow we need to find a way to get him the ball early to mix it up and take advantage of his skills. I'm doing what I can to take the pressure off of him."

Frances Sablan tops November Ace



Frances M. Sablan was the lone rose in Saipan Golf Association's November

Ace Golf Tournament and she proved to be a thorn on the side of male golfers after winning the one-day competition at the rain-soaked Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort last Oct. 31.

The Commonwealth Election Commission chairman and SGA secretary finished with net score of 71 to take the monthly title. Department of Public Works secretary Martin Sablan actually came away with a net 69 to finish No. 1. He, however, had already captured the August Ace making him ineligible to win another monthly tournament.

Retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan came in third for the November Ace with a 72. He nipped Joe Demapan, Nick Sablan, and Ed Manibusan in a scorecard tie-break after all of them finished in a four-way tie.

A total of 17 SGA members



Sablan

took part in the monthly tee-off, but only 15 were able to complete the round because of the inclement weather.

In the longest drive competition, Edward Manibusan and October Ace Ray San Nicolas out-drove everyone in holes No. 6 and 18, respectively.

Demapan, meanwhile, won two closest-to-the-pin competitions, while Frances Sablan and Martin Sablan each won one.

In the most birdies category, Nick Sablan caught three birdies and Edward Manibusan one.

Frances Sablan's victory in the November Ace allowed her to join 10 other SGA members who already won monthly tournaments in 2010 and advanced to SGA's Ace of Aces competition.

She joins Vince Rosario (January), Edward Sablan (February), Mariano Fajardo (March), Larry Deleon Guerrero (April), Steve Jang (May), Jung Teack (June), Jose Sablan (July), Martin Sablan (August), Steve Balakrishna (September), and Ray San Nicolas (October) to the yearend championship set for Nov. 27 and 28 at COP.

SGA, meanwhile, has scheduled its December Ace on Nov. 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links. All playing members will be treated to turkeys immediately after the tournament. The club will also have a get-together to give thanks for the countless blessings at their Thanksgiving Banquet on Nov. 19. (PR)

Memorial Cup Masters caging to start Nov. 13

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2010 Memorial Cup Masters Basketball League will tip off this Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Organized by the Master Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands, the competition will be formally unveiled with an opening ceremony set to start at 5:30pm.

The MFNMI Board of Directors has dedicated this upcoming season in memory of departed



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its monthly membership meeting today starting at 7pm at the conference room of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association on the third floor of the Tan Siu Lin Plaza in Garapan.

CNMI hoops legends Pete Techur (1986), Tom Barcinas (2000), James Tanaka (2005), Ric Alegre (2008), Nick Lose (2008), Gerald Feritti (2009), Ross Persadde, and Tinian's Tony Borja (2009). They will be honored during Saturday's opening ceremony.

All players and coaches are requested to be present at the opening where the divisions will be determined in a raffle format. The final schedule will be set after the raffle drawing.

Thirteen teams are competing for the Memorial Cup this year. Games will take place on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 6:30pm and 8:00pm.

The MBFNMI also plans to showcase an all-star round robin between the 35A, 40A, and 45A divisions for bragging rights at the end of the season.

In related news, a mandatory meeting for all coaches is set on Friday, Nov. 12, 5:30pm at the Ada Gym conference room. The meeting aims to finalize team rosters, waiver forms, entrance fees, eligibility requirements, league format, explanation of the ground rules, and other important matters.

For more information about the 2010 Memorial Cup, email mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com.

NMASA meeting set tonight at TSL Plaza

NMASA president Michael White said they had to change the venue of the meeting at the last minute because of the unavailability of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Aside from the usual election of the previous month's top athletes and students athletes, White is also expected to update members on the FIBA Oceania

Basketball Tournament in New Caledonia he recently attended as well as new developments in the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea.

White also reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. (PR)

SIXTH

From Page 28

from kindergarten to sixth grade who can swim 50 meters, are encouraged to join the team. We explained to them that it does not matter how they finish the event, as long as they participate in the race and win points for the school," coach Jeff Race said.

"They really like the idea that even though they were behind in the races, the school still fin-

ished ahead," Race added.

Race said they had 26 swimmers comprising Whispering Palms' elementary division team and four in the junior high school squad.

Members of the team are Jin Ju Thompson, Sally Lai, Hana Lynn Nelson, You Sun Lee, Troy Young, Steven Lee, Arman and Julianna Khorram, Amon McGuire, Naoiki Kasai, Negahr Rastgui, Melanie Chloe, Grace Kim, Logan Mister, Jamin Elliot, Maile Aldritch, Natalie

Hardt, Amber Montenegro, Steven Goodwin, Zion Okano, Rachael Kwon. Suah Cho, Megan Yost, Victoria Chentsova, Gabrielle Race, Nicole Arenovski, Cole Chambers, and Jesse Leon Guerrero.

SCS reigns in junior high

Saipan Community School foiled Whispering Palms' bid for a second championship trophy last Saturday after the Tsunamis topped the junior high school division.

Saipan Community earned 91 points against Whispering Palms' 53 to gain first place in the 11 to 13 age group.

The Tsunami' winning junior high school team had Kosei Toda, Steven Choi, Quintin Ramsey, Dylan Ackerman, and Ryu Tanzawa as members.

Completing the Top 3 finish in the junior high school division was Saipan International School, which tallied 52 points, just one point behind runner-up Whispering Palms.

Southern takes high school plum

Saipan Southern High School was the runaway winner in the high school division after collecting 91 points.

The Manta Rays defeated Kagman High School and Saipan International School convincingly, as the Ayuyus and Geckos logged only 16 points each.

Southern had the most entries in the high school division with eight: Thea Minor, Marvin, Al-

bert, Vincent, and Thomas Lee, Dooyong Lee, James and Andrew Kim. Kagman had only one entry in Keanna Villagomez, while SIS missed ace swimmer and CNMI record holder Kai Staal due to school commitment.

Fourteen schools joined the weekend event, including Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, William S. Reyes, Dandan, Tanapag, Oleai, Hopwood Junior High School, Grace Christian Academy, Home School, and Calvary Christian Academy.

FAST'S

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In the women's division, Australian Olympian Amber Halliday will not be able to defend her title this year, leaving Saipan's Miek Carey, Guam's Chiyo Lombard, and Korea's Kim Myo Jin to dispute the 2010 championship.

Carey, who topped the 2008 race, was runner-up to Halliday last year, while Lombard finished third in 2009. Kim finished first in the 70K Tour de DMZ and the KINTEX 77K races this year.

Meanwhile, motorists and pedestrians are urged to take extra caution during race day.

"PIC would like to notify all motorists on the morning of Dec.

4 to be particularly cautious from 6:30am to 9:30am on the north-bound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capitol Hill where cyclists will be riding in packs. There will be cones to indicate bike lanes. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive during the above times, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all," PIC said in a press

statement.

"For additional safety measures, we ask the public to restrain their dogs in the morning along the route," the statement added.

Next month's race, which is expected to draw more than 120 bikers, will start at the southern parking slot of PIC then riders head north to the Chalan Piao intersection, make a U-turn back to the start, and proceed south

into the village of Koblerville toward the Saipan International Airport.

From the airport, cyclists will ride uphill towards the villages of San Vicente, Papago and Kagman going to Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From the golf course, riders will proceed north on Isa Drive and descend down to the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance and make the U turn, scaling the long, windy

road uphill to Capital Hill. At the bottom of Capital Hill, the course converges on Chalan Pale Arnold Road to the next checkpoint high atop Radar Hill in As Matuis. The last portion of the race will have riders cruising Saipan's famous historic and scenic sites, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff. For the finish, cyclists will cruise Beach Road back to PIC.

KING'Z

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leo, and Wilton Laniyo combined for 16 points for Yo Face to give the team its first win and hand Hit It its third defeat in as

many games.

The Yo Face-Hit It match produced six aces, six kees, two goals, and one xunk.

Games in the high school league are played on weekdays during lunch hours with teams colliding in three sets. The lead-

ing team must win the third set to claim the victory. If not, the match goes to o-kon with the first squad to score five points or make a goal taking the game.

The champion team in the high school league will challenge the top squad in the com-

munity league for the overall championships. So far, the community league has only two teams in the Soul Rebels and Sounders. Saipan Rockball creator James Feger said they are still accepting teams in the community league.

ALL

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Northern Mariana Islands chain. The annual event is widely anticipated and supported by the local community, as well. Clear blue water and quiet courses through lush jungles and scenic coastlands await this weekend's coastlanders on the island also proudly called "The Friendly Island" by residents.

"Everything is proceeding smoothly in preparation for this weekend's event, the biggest sporting event each year on Rota," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Due-

nas. "We hope the good weather continues to hold and look forward to sending all our visitors home with a smile on their faces for having participated."

The annual triathlon will feature two distances, an A-type Solo Triathlon including a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km biking course, and a 10-km run. The B-type Solo Triathlon will include a 2-km swim, followed by a 90-km rigorous biking course, and a 21-km run. There will also be an A-type Team Triathlon. The A-type triathlons have no time limit, while the B-type has an eight-hour time limit.

Returning professional triathletes and other well-known

athletes in Japan lead the pack of registrants. Registration fees are as follows: A-type Solo Triathlon for all three events is \$80, B-type Solo Triathlon for all three events is \$100, and A-type Team Triathlon is \$70/person for two or three persons. The entry fee includes an event T-shirt, high-quality swim cap, the awards banquet, and a guaranteed great time.

Registration applications are now being accepted at the MVA office. Pre-registration will take place on Nov. 12, from 11am to 12:30pm at the Bay Breeze Restaurant & Bar. The swim inspection will be held from 1pm to 2:30pm at the East Harbor.

Final registration will take place the same day from 4:30pm to 8pm at the Rota Resort & Country Club, with the pre-race briefing for all participants set at the same venue from 6pm to 7:30pm.

Starting time is 6:30am at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted and bike helmets are required. The awards banquet will be held on race day at 6:30pm at Rota's East Harbor.

For more information about the Rota Blue Triathlon, contact Frank Tudela of the MVA at 664-3200/01 or ftudela@mymarianas.com, or Sandra Atalig of the MVA Rota Office at 532-0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|---|---|------|-------|
| Boston | 6 | 2 | .750 | — |
| New York | 3 | 4 | .429 | 2 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 2 | 5 | .286 | 3 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 2 | 5 | .286 | 3 1/2 |
| Toronto | 1 | 6 | .143 | 4 1/2 |

Southeast Division

| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|------|-------|
| Orlando | 5 | 1 | .833 | — |
| Atlanta | 6 | 2 | .750 | — |
| Miami | 5 | 3 | .625 | 1 |
| Washington | 1 | 4 | .200 | 3 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 1 | 6 | .143 | 4 1/2 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|------|-------|
| Cleveland | 4 | 3 | .571 | — |
| Chicago | 3 | 3 | .500 | 1/2 |
| Indiana | 3 | 3 | .500 | 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 3 | 5 | .375 | 1 1/2 |
| Detroit | 2 | 6 | .250 | 2 1/2 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|-------|---|
| New Orleans | 7 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
|-------------|---|---|-------|---|

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|------|-------|
| San Antonio | 5 | 1 | .833 | 1 1/2 |
| Dallas | 4 | 2 | .667 | 2 1/2 |
| Memphis | 4 | 4 | .500 | 3 1/2 |
| Houston | 1 | 5 | .167 | 5 1/2 |

Northwest Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------|-------|
| Portland | 6 | 3 | .667 | — |
| Utah | 4 | 3 | .571 | 1 |
| Denver | 4 | 4 | .500 | 1 1/2 |
| Oklahoma City | 3 | 3 | .500 | 1 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 7 | .125 | 4 1/2 |

Pacific Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|-------|-------|
| L.A. Lakers | 8 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Golden State | 5 | 2 | .714 | 2 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 3 | 3 | .500 | 4 |
| Phoenix | 3 | 4 | .429 | 4 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 1 | 7 | .125 | 7 |

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 144, Denver 113
Cleveland 93, New Jersey 91
Utah 116, Miami 114, OT
Milwaukee 107, New York 80
New Orleans 101, L.A. Clippers 82
Portland 100, Detroit 78
L.A. Lakers 99, Minnesota 94

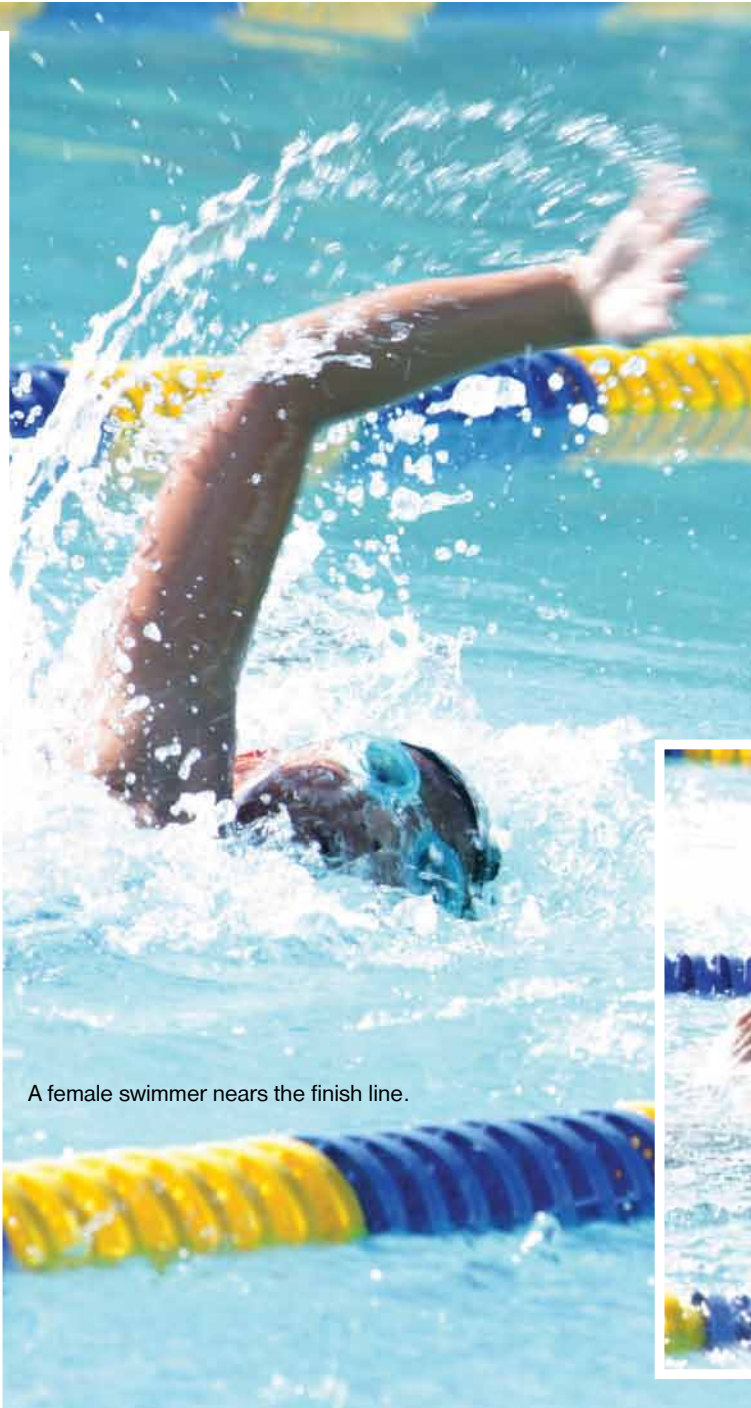
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 SSC All Schools Swimming Championship

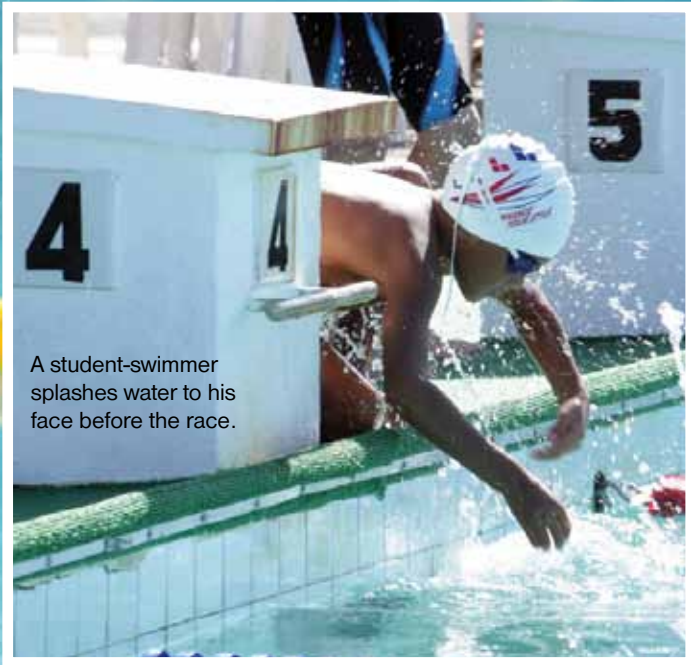
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A swimmer waits for the start of the race.



A female swimmer nears the finish line.



A student-swimmer splashes water to his face before the race.



A swimmer fixes his goggles while waiting for the race to start.



A female swimmer competes in the 50m backstroke.



A participant in the 2010 SSC All Schools Swimming Championship races in the 50m breaststroke event last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Swimmers position themselves at the starting block.



Female swimmers plunge into the pool during the 50m freestyle race.



Parents of Whispering Palms students applaud their swimmers.



A swimmer gasps for air during the 50m freestyle event.



Frances
Sablan tops
November
Ace

26

Saipan Tribune Sports



Millsap's 46
help Jazz stun
Heat in OT

24

28 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sixth in a row for Whispering Palms

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Whispering Palms' Logan Mister competes in the 50m breaststroke race during the 2010 SSC All Schools Swimming Championship at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last Saturday.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms lived up to high expectations, ruling the elementary division of the 2010 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swimming Championship last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Whispering Palms came at the Marpi pool heavily favored to top the elementary division after prevailing in the same category for five straight years or from 2004 to 2008. SSC failed to hold the swim meet last year due to the pool closure and Whispering Palms' bid for the sixth straight title was stalled for one year.

When the all schools meet returned last Sat-

urday, Whispering Palms reasserted its dominance in the elementary division, scoring the most points not only in that group, but overall.

The Navy Hill-based school collected 231 points to beat Garapan Elementary School (192 points) and Saipan Community School (78 points) for the top honors. Points were awarded to schools based on how their swimmers finished the race. Only the Top 2 placers of each school were given points, which were totaled to determine the Top 3 schools.

Whispering Palms coach Jeff Race attributed the team's continued success in the swim meet to the cooperation of every student.

"The key to our success in the past several years is maximum participation. Every kid,

See SIXTH on Page 26

Fast's speed will be tested in 'Hell'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russia's Konstantin Fast, seen here in a contributed photo, will try to continue the former Soviet republic's dominance in the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race set for Dec. 4.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Russia's Konstantin Fast will try to prove that his family name fits him when he competes in the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race next month.

Fast will be among the pros to watch in the 100-kilometer race that will hit the road on Dec. 4. He

will be aiming to keep the men's division title among Russian riders after compatriot Alexander Bagenov won last year's race. Bagenov, a former member of Italy's cycling team Domoni Vacanze, timed in at three hours, three minutes, and 25.88 seconds to rule the third edition of the annual race, but he will miss this year's event due to an earlier commitment.

Taking his place is Fast, who also used to race for an Italian cycling team—G.S. 93 OFZ FAAC Electromatic. The 34-year-old rider, whose parents are both cyclists, is based in Khabarovsk and works at the Russian Ministry of Youth Culture and Sports to promote the sport in his country.

Fast will be entered in the men's pro division with its hefty \$1,500 prize money and go up against a group of Japanese and Korean riders, Guam's Jazy Garcia, and a few local bikers.

Leading Team Japan is Takahiro "Oga san" Ogasawara, who is no stranger to Saipan races, as he has been a familiar figure in XTERRA Saipan, Tagaman, Rota Blue, and Tinian triathlons. The 30-year-old rider is currently the national coach of Japan's mountain bike team.

Garcia joined the first three races of Hell and had his best finish in 2008 when he placed runner-up to Eli Torgeson. To prepare for next month's race, Garcia has been visiting Saipan often and competed in pre-Hell events.

Guam sent only a few riders in last year's Hell, but Saipan's neighbor is expected to field a full team next month to help Garcia rule the race this time.

Also joining next month's race are Korean pros Choi Kung Kyu and Lee Suck Woo, who were the Top 2 finishers in Korea's 2010 Tour de DMZ held last month.

See FAST'S on Page 26

Kingz hands Magic first loss in rocball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Magic ran out of tricks in its third game in the 2010 Rocball High School League to absorb its first loss at the hands of Kingz.

Kingz won the game in overtime last week at the Marianas High School, 51-38, to improve to a 2-1 record and tie Magic for first place.

Kingz got off to a strong start when it defeated Magic in the first two sets, 17-10, 15-10. In the third set, Magic recovered and eked out a 16-12.

After three sets, Kingz led, 44-36, but since it lost the last set, it could not take the win and it had to duel Magic anew in overtime. In overtime, Kingz finally won, 7-2, to snap Magic's winning run.

Kingz's Ryan Ichihara was the game's heavy hitter, scoring 10 points off three kees

and two aces. Magic and Kingz combined for 10 kees, nine aces, three xunks, one jam, and one goal.

In the other game last week, Yo Face broke into the win column after two straight losses, following a 37-31 triumph over Hit It.

Yo Face dropped the opening set, 6-16, but grabbed the juiced-out win when it swept the last two sets, 16-14, 15-1.

Larry Singa, Sylvester Kapi-

See KINGZ on Page 26

All systems go for Rota Blue Triathlon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan participants in last year's Rota Blue Triathlon pose for a group photo before the race.

Organizers are declaring "all systems go" for this Saturday's 17th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Rota Mayor's Office have laid the course and are finalizing logistics for the swim-bike-run event, while the Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan makes final preparations with the more than 100 athletes it has recruited for the event.

The Rota Blue Triathlon is an annual signature event of the MVA aimed at attracting visitors to the southernmost island in the

See ALL on Page 26